Disbarred lawyer's request for lower sentence denied. » PAGE 2

Man accused of stabbing mother to go on trial. » PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 30 | THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2015 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Casino commission now complete

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is now complete with the confirmation of Martin DLG. San Nicolas as one of its commissioners on Wednesday.

The Tinian legislative delegation held a public hearing on the nomination of San Nicolas.

The delegation is headed Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), with members Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian).

After the public hearing, the Tinian delegation unanimously voted to approve San Nicolas' nomination, citing his previous experience in gaming and other industries.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres swore in

See CASINO on Page 4

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, left, swears in new casino commissioner Martin DLG. San Nicolas, his hand raised hand, as members of the Tinian legislative delegation look on.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hunter denies deposition meant to embarrass Torres

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Glen Hunter claims the deposition of Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres was not done in a manner showing bad faith or to embarrass, annoy, or oppress him.

In Hunter's reply yesterday to Torres' motion for protective order, Hunter's counsel Jennifer Dockter also asked the Superior Court to impose sanctions on Torres' counsel, assistant attorney general David Lochabay, for his behavior at the deposition.

Dockter said Torres' motion fails to cite case law that discusses the termination of a deposition.

Dockter said Torres' motion does not cite the deposition transcript despite his earlier representation that the transcript was necessary to prepare his motion.

"Instead, the motion makes broad sweeping, unsupported conclusions without basis in law on in fact," she pointed out.

See HUNTER on Page 4

Gas prices go up by 10 cents

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas gasoline stations on Saipan increased their gasoline prices by 10 cents yesterday.

For Mobil, the price per gallon for regular gasoline is now at $3.909, while its super unleaded is now $4.23. Price per gallon for diesel is $4.369.

For Shell, regular gasoline is now pegged at $3.91 per gallon, while diesel is now at $4.37 per gallon.

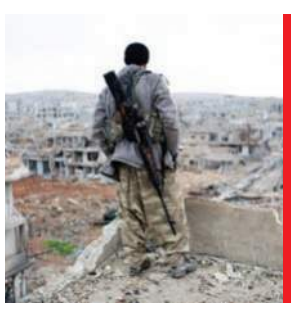
The two companies traditionally mirror each other's price movements.

The price increase was implement-

See GAS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Jennifer Dockter is the new president of the CNMI Bar Association.
» PAGE 8



WORLD
Foreign fighters are streaming into Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State.
» PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Jon Stewart will leave as host of "The Daily Show" this year.
» PAGE 20

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Disbarred lawyer's request for lower sentence denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman denied yesterday a request by disbarred lawyer Antonio M. Atalig for a reduced prison sentence in connection with his domestic violence and contempt of court cases.

Atalig concedes that his arguments are time-barred, but said the court should apply an exception to the statutory time limit under a newly proposed construction of time-bar rules.

Wiseman said, however, that he is not persuaded by Atalig's arguments and denied the motion on procedural grounds.

Wiseman said even if he were to overlook the untimeliness of Atalig's motion, he is unlikely to grant the requested relief.

Wiseman cited his April 15, 2014, sentence and commitment order on contempt, in which he stated this is a case where the best interests of justice and of this society may be served by imposing the maximum jail term.

The judge said a maximum prison term may have a deterrent effect on Atalig's life upon his release, and on potential offenders who don't take court orders seriously and think nothing of violating them, and will serve as the ret-

See DISBARRED on Page 4

Cop issues traffic citation to PSS chief

Public School System Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan was cited for alleged misuse of government vehicle last month, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Sablan's hearing will be in Superior Court today, Thursday, at 9am.

Saipan Tribune contacted Sablan last night but she refused to comment.

Sources disclosed that Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas issued the traffic citation to Sablan at Twins Market in Lower Navy Hill.

Sources said Macaranas saw that Sablan was driving a tinted white Honda four-door sedan that was leased to PSS. The officer also found out that the car has no government markings on the door and a regular license plate was used instead of a government plate, in violation of the Government Vehicle Act. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Full house expected at breadfruit workshop

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Interest has peaked for the Northern Marianas College's breadfruit workshop, with a full house expected for both days of the event at the Hafadai Beach Hotel ballroom on Friday and the college's Room D1 on Saturday.

According to the college yesterday, they have reached the maximum capacity for both days. Friday's event starts at 9am and ends at 5pm, while Saturday's event starts at 9am and ends at 12pm.

"We are extremely glad to see the heightened interest the breadfruit workshop has generated in the community," NMC's Cooperative Research Education and Extension Services acting director Patricia Coleman said. "Through the leadership of Dr. Tusi Avegalio from University of Hawaii, Kalani Souza, Craig Elevitch, and Ivan Blanco, we have been working to make sure that the workshop offers very practical information with hands-on demonstrations."

NMC CREES collaborated with the Office of the Governor, University of Hawaii's Pacific Business Center Program, the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the CNMI Department of Commerce to host the event.

According to Coleman, the workshop will feature some of the islands' farmers and community members who will be talking about the successes they have had with growing breadfruit.

These stakeholders aim to build local capacity to advance breadfruit as a commercial crop for local and export markets.

On Friday, Avelgalio, Elevitch, and Souza, among others, will lead presentations on renewing breadfruit as a crop, making flour from breadfruit, breadfruit commercialization, breadfruit agroforesty systems, and breadfruit byproducts like latex, mosquito repellant, and pig food.

Fran Cruz, Nick Songson, and Lucy Schilling will also speak on growing breadfruit in the Marianas.

On Saturday, Souza will speak on breadfruit's role in community resilience; Cruz will speak on breadfruit propagation, and both Evelich and Souza will speak on food forests and climate change.

Both days will close with a breadfruit raffle, evaluation, and closing ceremony.

Coleman said that "building local capacity" in areas that improve the economic vitality of the CNMI is a strong priority for NMC and CREES.

She thanked the Office of the Governor, DLNR, Department of Commerce, and especially the UH Pacific Business Center for making the workshop possible.

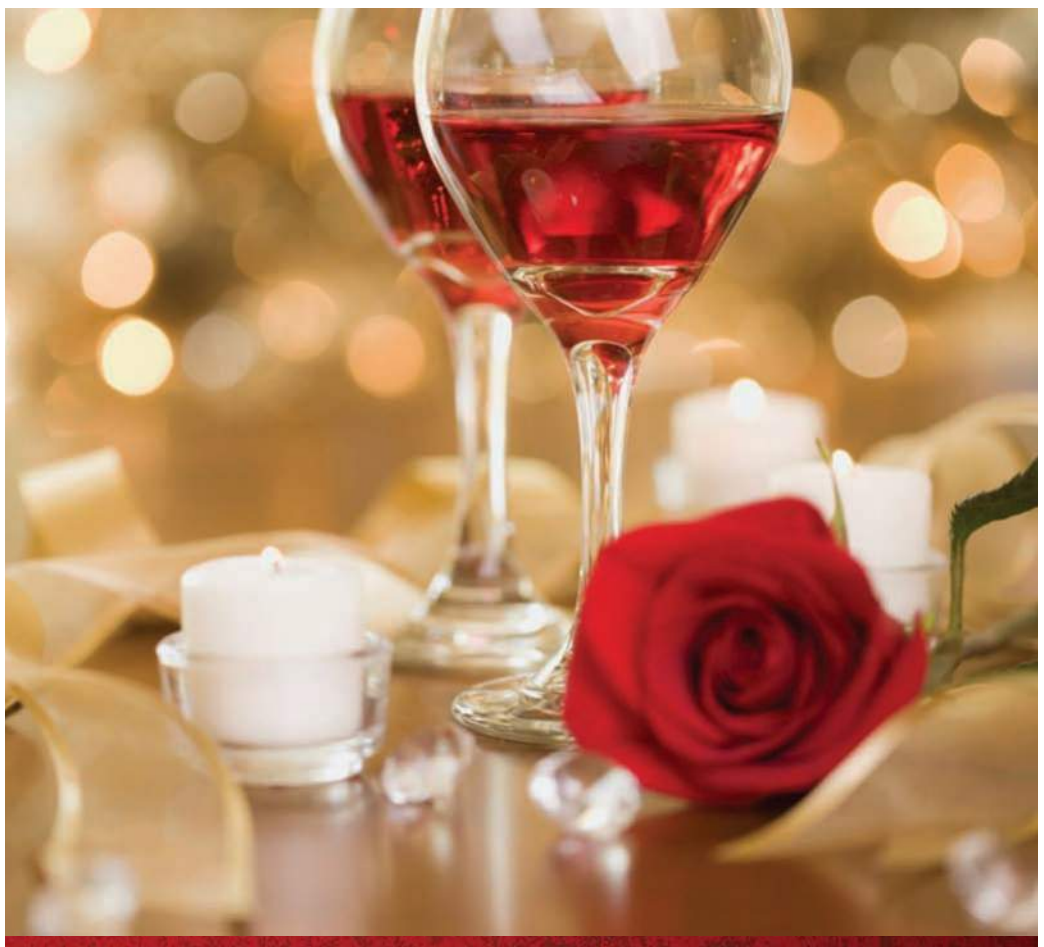
NMC AA grads can now transfer credits to HPU

The Northern Marianas College and Hawaii Pacific University signed last month an agreement that enables NMC students who transfer to HPU to carry with them the credit they have already earned for as much relevant study possible.

The agreement is only applicable to students transferring from NMC to HPU, and will allow NMC students who have completed an associate of arts degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to be accepted as fulfilling all general education requirements at HPU.

"We are glad that the Northern Marianas College continues to build and continue strong partnerships with regional institutions that will ultimately benefit our students," NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart said in a statement. "This agreement with Hawaii Pacific University recognizes and acknowledges the strong educational background that NMC transfer students bring with them when they transition to larger universities after graduating from NMC."

She said NMC would continue to forge similar partnerships with other institutions to expand the opportunities available to CNMI students. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***



Spend your evening with that special person at our Double Eagle Restaurant and enjoy our scenic view as we prepare that special dinner for that special someone on this special night.

Spoil your sweetheart with our (5) course meal that starts off with our appetizer followed by salad then seafood soup that will have you looking forward for the main entrée and finished off with a chocolate treat for dessert. Our complimentary glass of champagne or wine and a beautiful red rose for the beautiful lady should make for a memorable evening.

$80.00 per couple

Coral Ocean Golf Resort
For Reservation call (670) 288-8892 ext. 24
Major Credit Card Accepted

NEW PARADISE FLORIST
Valentine's Day
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

OPTION A — 6 full bloom Roses with mini Roses in a basket
OPTION B — 6 Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in a Basket
OPTION C — 1 Dozen Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in Basket

We also have: Tulips Orchids Lucky Bamboo Fruit &Wine Basket Gift Basket Roses (Comes in Different Packaging) Chocolates Stuffed Toys HVD Balloons (Choices of Mylar or Latex)

To place your order, please call 233-9875 and look for Robert.
You can also visit our shop located in Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.

$900K needed to implement Saipan bus system

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the 7,000-plus riders it had last year, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority believes the need for public transportation on Saipan will just continue to increase in the years ahead.

COTA special assistant for public transportation Thomas Camacho said the demand for public transportation is growing and the urgency to meet that need shows in last year's statistics.

However, the means to address this need remains out of sight, with Camacho saying that funding is still required before the project—the Saipan Fix Flex Route System—can even be started.

Camacho said the first year of implementing the route system is projected to cost a little over $900,000, enough to buy at least nine buses.

COTA asked last year for a $908,556 budget from the local government but didn't get it. COTA had also sought federal grant funding of $4.71 million but their application for the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery Grant VI with the U.S Department of Transportation was not selected.

Right now, COTA provides a call-a-ride service for people who want to be picked up and dropped off at locations such as work, school, home, and other public places.

New PUTC committee

To address its funding needs, COTA is planning to seek assistance from the Legislature and some lawmakers have expressed interest in working with the agency.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), a member of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication, said he would try to bring up the matter in this Friday's PUTC meeting.

Senate PUTC committee chair Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) said he attended a COTA public hearing last month and approached them to express interest in meeting with them.

"[COTA] dropped off a document and I have yet to review it but I do intend to sit down with them to find out the issues and concerns. I am highly favorable to COTA and my main interest with COTA is the need for public transportation. For me, we need to get the bus system online to provide public transportation for those who can't afford vehicles or have vehicles but can't afford it because of fuel costs. I intend to work with Camacho to iron out the issues and hopefully get this started," Igisomar said.

Camacho said that Federal Transit Administration grants, fare, and other revenue to be derived from advertising and parking meter fare collections will supplement a good percentage of the costs or expenses to operate and maintain the transit system, but it is not enough to support the entire costs of running and maintaining a public transportation system.

Growing demand

A taxi owner told *Saipan Tribune* there's a growing demand for public transportation from tourists arriving on island but many do not ride taxis due to the high cost and instead opt for other means of transportation.

The taxi owner said that tourists would often wait for buses, rent a car, or just walk.

"It will affect us if there are more buses, but also we have competition now, the illegal taxis. I'm not saying I don't support easy and cheap transportation, I'm just saying it would help our island more."

A driver of an illegal taxi said they aren't trying to put legal taxi owners out of business.

"It is what the residents request of public transportation. They need cheaper rides, something more affordable and they look to us for that. Sometimes we can't even accommodate so many calls at once in one day. Sometimes more than four people are calling. Sometimes we even tell them to call another taxi," he said.

He said that sometimes they accommodate almost 50 people in the daytime alone, and that doesn't include evenings.

One passenger of an illegal taxi said he depends on the illegal taxi to get from home to work and back. He said he agrees with the illegal taxi owner.

"It won't be necessary to ride this if they just provide us with cheap public transportation. In my country, we have buses and people who can't afford [legal taxis] use them. This is something we need on Saipan," he said.

Illegal taxis costs $3 for short-distance travel, while legal taxis costs a lot more, with service between Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio to Garapan sometimes setting passengers back $30.

BW CAR RENTAL
NEW LOCATION
in GARAPAN, SUNLEADER BLDG.
Special Rate $100.00 for 3 days.
FREE Pick up and Drop off Service
287-2727
Mon. - Sun. • 9AM-9PM

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '97 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.
Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

LA Vi DUTY FREE
Golden Lion Jewelry
SUPER SALE
UP TO 70% OFF
SELECTED ITEMS
HERE
FIESTA HOTEL
PASEO DE MARIANAS
SUBWAY
12:30PM-10:00PM Mon.-Sat.

Tinian mayor working with CIP, military on island infrastructure

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicholas said his office is working with the Capital Improvement Projects Office and the U.S. military as they plan out the overall infrastructure development for the island.

San Nicolas

San Nicholas said they are nearly done with going over the office's financials and inventory of the different facilities and equipment.

"From there we have very ambitious plans. Infrastructure is a top priority for us. So we're working closely with CIP and the military as we develop our overall infrastructure development," he said.

San Nicholas said they are also working on having direct flights to Tinian, which means working on getting the Tinian airport ready.

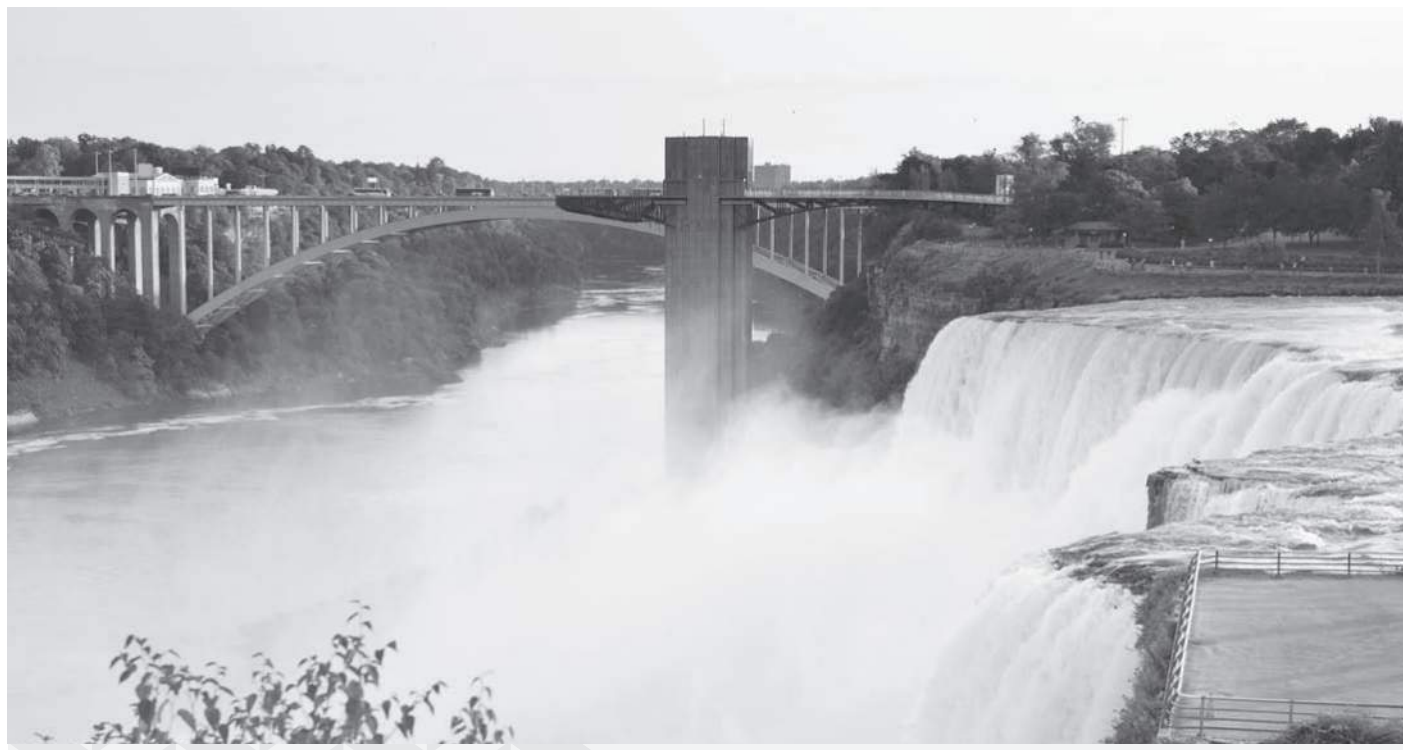
He said they also putting in place all Tinian resident department heads.

"All of the resident department heads [on] Tinian have been appointed so we're in the process of them being heard and hopefully confirmed by the Tinian Municipal Council," he said.

"I am also working closely with the leadership in identifying issues in education, the infrastructure, and the budget. There is a host of things that are going on in Tinian and I'd be remiss that I do not give credit to the leadership, mainly the chairman of the municipal council and the chairman of the Tinian delegation," he added.

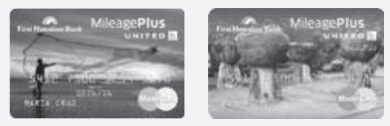
At the top of the infrastructure priority are the airport, the breakwater, and landfill, he said.

"We are also preparing the ribbon cutting for the renovation of the Department of Public Safety building and working on issuing a bid for the repair and rehabilitation of our guest house units located in lower or upper Navy Hill on Tinian," he said.



FHB.COM

~~One day~~, we'll be crossing boundaries.



The wait is over... Use your First Hawaiian Bank United MileagePlus® Credit Card and get 15% off your airfare when you book your round trip flight at united.com, United® city ticket office or your travel agency. With a card that rewards, you're always one step closer to your dream vacation.

Origin	Destination	Discounted fares with taxes and surcharge	15% off	MIN STAY	MAX STAY	Promo Code	Outbound travel	Last ticket date
Guam/ Northern Marianas	Honolulu	Starting $1,164	WLX27NEH	7 Days	3 Months	FHB15A	01 Feb 15 – 31 May 15	15-Feb-15
	West Coast	Starting $1,237	SLX27NEH					
	East Coast	Starting $1,405	WLX27NEH					

Ticketing Requirement: Tickets must be issued within 3 days after reservations are made or at least 7 days prior to scheduled departure, whichever is earlier, but no later than February 15, 2015. The itinerary must include travel between Guam and Honolulu on one of the following flights, UA 200 & UA 201. Travel via Japan is not permitted.

Visit fhb.com/UnitedTake15

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

MileagePlus UNITED

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

Member FDIC

Terms and Conditions: Ticket must be issued by 02/15/15 to be eligible for discount. Discount is valid when payment is made with First Hawaiian Bank MileagePlus credit card. Offer is valid only against market published structured fares for roundtrip travel from Guam or Northern Marianas to U.S. Valid on UA flights only (must include travel via Guam and Honolulu on UA200/UA201). Travel via Japan is not permitted. Other discounts and travel certificates cannot be combined and are not applicable. Rules on published fare apply to ticket purchased. Offer is valid for ticket originating and issuance in Guam and Northern Marianas only. Discount not applicable to prior purchases. Discount does not apply to any taxes, fees, or surcharges. Offer is applicable for ticketing at united.com, United city ticket office or your local travel agency with offer code FHB15A. Ticketing service fee of $30 applies for ticket issuance through United city ticket office.

For United ticketing agent, refer to CORE Reservations > Promos and Communications > FHB.

Cabinet, mayors, others undergo FEMA workshop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cabinet members, mayors, law enforcement officers, and other stakeholders completed yesterday a three-day senior leaders workshop conducted by Federal Emergency Management Agency officials at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

A team of five FEMA officials held the training for two days and culminated yesterday with an exercise.

"This is the first time that we really had the entire Cabinet and we had great attendance," according to Colby Stanton, director of FEMA Region 9 Pacific Area Office in Honolulu.

Stanton said their focus is helping Pacific jurisdictions integrate with FEMA and providing support for capability building.

"Because we understand the threat in the Pacific, the isolation, the geographic distances involve really require emergency management to a higher level here," said Stanton in an interview.

She said FEMA worked with CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin Seman and the Governor's Office to develop the seminar for the senior leaders and their staff.

Stanton said they trained the participants on how to access federal assistance, various FEMA programs, and the requirements for accessing those programs.

"This morning we culminated with the seminar leaders tabletop, which we had great representation," she said.

Stanton said they used a single scenario but different kinds of impacts.

"One of the things that we always grapple with here is that we're small islands in the middle of the vast of ocean," she said.

Stanton said they set a scenario, in which they know that there is a threat coming in but they don't know for sure what will happen.

She said their final module was a catastrophic disaster scenario.

"I think it's a great learning opportunity for everybody and, to be honest, for FEMA as well," she said.

Stanton said it's always a great opportunity for them to hear what the local capabilities are and what the gaps are. She said it helps them identify how they can provide additional training to the CNMI government beforehand and also how they can be better prepared to support the government in an actual disaster.

"We know that the CNMI is isolated. It's part of the reason why we have the Pacific Area Office," she pointed out.

Seman said the seminar is actually something that the Office of the Governor and the Department of Homeland Security have been thinking about prior to the start of the new administration.

Seman said they made it a point to get all the new senior leadership, the Cabinet, the mayors, and some of non-profit organizations to come to the same table to discuss emergency management during a disaster.

DLNR to look at fisheries data gap

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is looking to examine "the gap" in fisheries data that occur during the late and early hours of a day. Department of Land and Natural Resources acting secretary Richard Seman met with personnel from the Pacific Islands Fisheries Center this month to talk about efforts to improve these missing spots in fish data collection.

Seman said PIFC has worked with the Division of Fish and Wildlife staff on fishery data collection on activities from trolling, to hook and line fishing, but one of the things they are focusing on now is what they call "the gap."

Seman said there are government operations from 4am to 10pm, for example, surveying and weighing fish and interviewing fishermen—but the gap, he said, would be for what occurs between 10pm to 4am.

"We are looking at ways in which we can address that gap by perhaps creating new jobs or responsibilities that focuses on those particular timeline… Right now, the current staffing of the Division and Fish and Wildlife is enough for the kind of schedule that they have but to start working on the other hours may require additional staffing," he said.

These are the areas, or particular challenges, PISCF is trying to address, he said. "They are willing to put up the funds for that," he added.

He said this would allow the CNMI to further monitor their resources to see if they are overfishing, if they are fishing sustainably, or even if something is happening to fisheries like habitat destruction from erosion choking up coral reefs, for example.

"Those are things that we have to constantly monitor, to see if we are doing okay or not. We don't want to worry or start working on this later on, when it's too late."

He added the future work would look at population baselines established in years past. "We are comparing those baselines with what's happening," he said.

Seman met with PIFC's insular fisheries monitoring program manager Kimberly Lowe.

PIFC's Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis program provides fishery information to affected fishers, members of the fishing community, and other constituents on federally regulated fisheries and emerging regulatory issues. They also monitor the catch and effort by U.S. longline fishing vessels in the Western Pacific region, using the data in various PIFSC in-house research programs, and disseminating it abroad as summaries for stock assessments and other studies.

Fiji govt cancels One Hundred Sands' casino license

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji's Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum the denies the Fijian government was defrauded as a result of the cancellation of the license for its first-ever casino issued to One Hundred Sands Limited in 2011.

He says the government has made approximately $1 million [US$490,000] from the deal and stands to earn another $1million which it intends to pursue.

This in the form of fines supposed to be paid each month to the government by the developer as provided under the license.

The license issued in December 2011 required One Hundred Sands to pay $US100,000 ($F185,668) in penalty each month the project remained incomplete, beginning Oct. 1, 2013.

He confirmed before the house that the license was revoked Monday after the developer failed to comply with contract conditions.

"To date approximately $1million dollar has been paid. Of course one of the reasons for the revocation of the license was because the other $1million has not been paid to date," Sayed-Khaiyum said.

"So what we will be doing as provided under the license is we have the ability to pursue the outstanding amount. It will be pursued by government."

PNG men save woman being tortured for sorcery

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Just two days after taking part in training to combat so-called sorcery killings in Papua New Guinea, two men rescued an elderly woman who had been tortured after being accused of being a witch.

Paul Petrus and Gabriel Bak took part in a Women not Witches workshop in Mt Hagen, organized by the Seeds Theatre Company, just before Bak discovered a group of young men in his village of Komkui torturing and attempting to murder an elderly women they said was a witch.

Bak called Petrus in Mt Hagen, who raised the alarm with the police, and together the men convinced the group to release the woman. Bak and Petrus then took the woman to hospital for treatment.

"After the training we'd had with Seeds Theatre group, [Bak] warned [the youths] if they burned the woman alive they would be in trouble. He said he'd go and get the police and take the woman to the hospital so that's how we went there and rescued the woman from the community there," Petrus told the ABC.

Petrus said the woman was initially kidnapped in Mt Hagen city by her enemies, and dumped near a cemetery the youths were "guarding."

CASINO

From Page 1

San Nicolas the same day.

San Nicolas now joins the other four members of the casino regulatory body: commission chair Juan M. Sablan, and members Joseph C. Reyes, Alvaro A. Santos, and Justin S. Manglona.

Sablan, Reyes, and Santos represent Saipan, Manglona represents Rota, while San Nicolas represents Tinian.

The casino commission is allowed to have five commissioners, according to the law.

San Nicolas, commenting on his nomination and subsequent confirmation, said the regulatory body will "look at the organization itself" and "have a meeting with investors to understand their scope of operations."

San Nicolas said the commission will then determine their manpower requirements and hire people in the "next few months."

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is tasked to come up with regulations governing Saipan's fledgling casino industry, among other things, following the granting of an exclusive casino license to Best Sunshine International Ltd. to develop a $3.14-billion integrated resort.

The five-man commission came under scrutiny before it was completed.

One of the requirements of the law is for commission members to, among other things, hold a bachelor's degree in any field of study from a postsecondary educational institution accredited in the U.S. "or" must have at least five years work experience in the following areas: business management, government management or financial management.

DISBARRED

From Page 2

ribution that society demands.

In the April 15, 2014 order, Wiseman sentenced Atalig to an additional prison term of six months without parole and a $100 fine. The sentence is to be served consecutively, which means this is on top of the sentence imposed on Atalig in connection with a domestic violence case.

Atalig had pleaded guilty to two counts of assault and battery (domestic violence) and was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for 40 days. He was given credit for 40 days of time served.

Attorney Robert Myers, counsel for Atalig, filed a motion last year requesting the court to reduce the sentence, asserting that Atalig maintained good behavior while in jail and that he was sufficiently rehabilitated.

Then-assistant attorney general Margo Brown-Badawy opposed the motion.

Wiseman heard the motion last Sept. 17. The judge tentatively denied the motion pending a written decision. He issued the written order yesterday, denying the motion.

In May 2012, Wiseman suspended Atalig and Reynaldo O. Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two obtained from the Malite estate. In January 2014, the CNMI Supreme Court disbarred the two lawyers.

HUNTER

From Page 1

The lawyer said it is entirely unclear what the motion Torres is seeking: justification for refusing to answer questions, an order limiting the scope of the deposition moving forward, an order preventing discovery altogether, or an order directing discovery by a method other than the deposition.

Dockter said Lochabay engaged in improper behavior when he made argumentative objections and interjected improper commentary in violation of CNMI Rules of Civil Procedure, and instructed Torres not to answer.

Dockter said such behavior subjects Lochabay to sanctions.

Torres has filed a motion seeking a court order to protect him from suffering embarrassment, annoyance, or the undue burden of an excessive deposition at the hand of Dockter.

Torres, through Lochabay, filed the motion for protective order after he appeared for his deposition in court last Jan. 29.

Lochabay said the transcript of the two-hour deposition makes it clear that Hunter, by counsel Dockter, is on an "impermissible fishing expedition seeking to rummage around in Torres' affairs in an effort to embarrass, disrupt and annoy."

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

A discovery dispute arose in the case after Lochabay advised Torres not to answer some of Dockter's questions regarding some lawmakers' Hong Kong trip in 2013 and 2014.

The court will hear Torres' motion today, Thursday, at 1:30pm.

Hunter is suing the government, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Torres, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and two other lawmakers for allegedly violating the Open Government Act when they enacted the Saipan Casino Act without following the OGA's public notice provisions.

Hunter has asked the court to issue a declaratory judgment, explicitly stating that the OGA does, in fact, apply to the Legislature, and that the lawmakers named in the lawsuit are properly before the court for violating their public notice provisions.

Associate Judge David Wiseman dismissed the Lottery Commission as a party in the lawsuit.

GAS

From Page 1

ed Wednesday evening.

Charles Ewart, president of Mobil Oil Marianas, confirmed that the oil company increased its pump price by 10 cents a gallon.

"Our pump prices reflect changes in the prevailing wholesale prices and take into account many other factors like distribution and operational costs, etc." Ewart said in an email.

"Since our last price decrease on Jan. 15, wholesale prices for gasoline have gone up by over 20 percent."

According to www.fuelgaugereport.com, the average cost of regular gas in the U.S. mainland is $2.15 per gallon, while the national average is at $3.27 per gallon.

Man accused of stabbing mother to go on trial

Jaron Ronald, a 24-year-old man facing five charges for allegedly stabbing and beating his mother at their home in Kagman III, is set to go on trial on May 11, 2015 at 9am.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set the jury trial date yesterday at a status conference.

Camacho said a bench warrant will be issued for Ronald's arrest if he fails to appear at the trial.

The judge ordered the parties to appear at a pretrial conference/motion hearing on April 8 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government yesterday. Ronald appeared under the custody of the Department of Corrections and with his counsel, assistant public defender Matthew Meyer.

In the first amended information, the Office of the Attorney General charged Ronald with assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, senior citizen physical abuse, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Ronald pleaded not guilty.

Arraignment will be on Feb. 2 at 9am.

Ronald claimed that his mother got injured after she fell from bed last Jan. 21 but police later alleged that he actually stabbed her with a sharp object and beat her up at their home.

Police said the victim sustained two lacerations on her right forehead and bruises on the right eye and cheek, right arm, and right hand. Her fingers were swollen and bruised, and her right leg was also bruised.

The police report and the first amended information did not indicate the victim's age but described her as a *man'amko* [elderly]. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Larson is still Finance chief

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson has confirmed that she will continue to be at the helm of the department.

Larson said she is grateful and looks forward to another four years working at Finance.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, will decide on who will head the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Lands "soon."

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres told reporters that Inos will soon decide on the leadership of both agencies, which are some of the "few departments still without their respective heads."

Torres, however, did not give a schedule on the impending announcements.

Former Corrections Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas will be assigned to a new post, according to Torres.

"Mafnas is moving to a different position," Torres said, although he did not specify if Mafnas' new post will be a department-level position.

Torres also confirmed that Inos has checked out of the hospital and might be going back to his office at Capital Hill soon where he is expected to announce a decision on the DCCA and DPL posts.

The administration earlier appointed Mark Rabauliman to head the Department of Commerce, Richard Seman for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and James Ada for the Department of Public Works.

Rabauliman have been serving as acting secretary after erstwhile Commerce secretary and now Sen. Sixto Igisomar ran and won a Senate seat, while Seman lost his seat in the House of Representatives in last year's general elections. Ada is the president of the CNMI Republican Party.

Also appointed was Ivan Blanco as public information officer. He has been serving in an acting capacity since former press secretary Angel Demapan ran and won a House seat in Precinct 1.

The appointments will be subject to Senate confirmation, except for the PIO post. More appointments are expected to be made in the coming days.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP15-COTA/FTA-034
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 04, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PREPARATION, DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF THE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT FOR COTA, A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

The Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after **February 05, 2015** at the COTA Office, 2nd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building located in Capitol Hill, Saipan during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this RFP is due no later than the **close of business, February 23, 2015** and should be addressed to **Ms. Alfreda P. Camacho** by e-mail to **alfreda.camacho@gov.mp.** All responses to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ VINCE MERFALEN
Acting Special Assistant For Public Transportation

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-035

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2015 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
E-BID SUBMISSION TO: procurement@pticom.com
IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED ON THIS ITB.

"PURCHASE OF TWELVE (12) SETS OF DELL WYSE THIN CLIENT ALL-IN-ONE COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

KINGSOLOMON-SHOP.COM
Valentine's Day Sale
30% OFF
on all items
*Sale ends February 28, 2015 and/or while supplies last.
Gift Items
Frames
Bags
Home Decors
Furnitures
Wood Carvings
Handicrafts
We are conveniently located near Lab Tech, and across Bali Fashion, Middle Road. For more information, please call 789-7194 or 989-2621
YOU COULD WIN AN
XBOX360
When you pay your IT&E Bill on or before the 15th.
CLICK TO PAY NOW
www.ite.net
The fastest, safest, most convenient way to pay.
*Some Conditions Apply. Must Pay IT&E Bill Online in Full, Residential Customers ONLY. First Generation Xbox 360 (4GB)
CALL
Saipan 682-4ITE (4483)
Tinian 433-0210
Rota 532-3599
VISIT
Chalan LauLau
Wireless Express Center - TSL Building
IT&E CNMI www.ite.net
IT&E

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival
Pika! Pika! Pika!
For more information, contact the MVA at 1 (670) 664-3230/01

The 11thAnnual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 14-15, 2015, in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

11th Tinian Pika Festival kicks off this Saturday

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 11th Annual Tinian Pika Festival kicks off this Saturday in celebration of the island's *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the islands.

Vida Borja of the Marianas Visitors Authority on Tinian said that festivities will officially start at 2pm.

Before that, the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim would take place in the morning at 7:30am, with Kammer Beach as the start and finish line.

The triathlon starts with a 1.5K, 3.0K, and 4.5K swim. A 40-kilometer bike race follows starting at Kammer Beach and a two-lap run from the Tinian Suicide Cliff to the airport intersection road and then down to Kammer Beach. Next is a 10-kilometer run to Suicide Cliff and back to Kammer Beach. The triathlon usually ends at 1pm.

The judging of the Tinian Pika Festival booths will take place starting at 1pm and festivities last from 2pm to 10am. The second day of the festival on Sunday, Feb. 15, will be from 11am to 11pm.

There will be plenty of entertainment and competitions after the opening ceremony on Saturday, including a beach volleyball tournament, an *umang* (coconut crab) race for boys and girls, a hot pepper eating contest for women, a demonstration by Junior Reserve Officers Corps cadets, and the awarding of certificates to the triathlon winners.

Performers include Tinian Elementary School students, Danny Laniyo band, St. Joseph School students, Jianna Cruz, Tom Hoshi's group, Taotao Taga Dance Academy, Kuradang kids dance group, David Diaz, Melia Kiilani Dance Group, HD Crew dance, and Joshua Castro.

The following day, Sunday, will feature the championship round for beach volleyball, the Estofao Pika cooking contest, a dragon boat race, a sack race, tug of war for adults and kids, hot pepper eating contest for men, and a chacha dance contest.

Entertainment will be provided by Heavenly Kids, Erich Manalo and Chad Acollador, YMB Dance, Nikita and Anthony, HD Crew Dance, Shake It Up, Melia Kiilani, Mary J. Manuel, Taotao Taga Dance Academy, Amanda Jumao-as and brother, Dynamic Youth Group, BD Boys, and Kuradan Dance Troupe.

The annual festival is sponsored by the MVA, the Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and other MVA members.

Visitors can go down to Tinian via Star Marianas and the ferry *Super Emerald*. Hotels on Tinian include the Tinian Dynasty, Fleming Hotel, Lorilynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, and the Greenfield Lion House.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

TINIAN CUP
TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER
TOURNAMENT

Guaranteed Prize Pool $100,000

Tournament Date:

February 14-15, 2015 (Saturday - Sunday)

Seats are limited, join now and win your share of $100,000 in prizes

*Registration cut off date/time : Tuesday 10 February 2015, 2200H

*ENTRY FEE: $600

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

ROUND TRIP FLIGHT SAIPAN - TINIAN - SAIPAN * 1 PAX
DELUXE GUESTROOM * 3 NIGHTS
MEAL COUPONS * 8 PCS.
WELCOME DINNER BUFFET * 1 PAX

Please visit Casino or call
Hotline 3282285 for information

* Terms and conditions apply
* Bet with your head not over it.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Specialized Truck Driver
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 20, 2015.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities for at least 2 years. Must be computer literate in Microsoft Word and Email. With experience in preparing of reports and schedules for sports activities and with good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, February 23, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

From the only cell company on island that protects you from high monthly billings.

CAP PLAN $25/month

1000 Local Call Minutes
Unlimited Local SMS
Local Calls and SMS include Guam and the CNMI.

Unlimited Push-To-Talk
Excess local calls - 10¢/minute • Once your usage reaches $45* your local calls become UNLIMITED for the month.

OTHER FEATURES & OPTIONS

Per Unit	Value Added Services
$6/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) SMS
$10/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) Calling
3¢/SMS	Philippines SMS to Sun Cellular
5¢/SMS	To all other RP networks

*FREE phone with 24-month sign-up to the $25 Cap Plan. Phone models may vary and are subject to availability. Some conditions apply.

/iconnectguam | iconnectsaipan.com | 888-8888

GROUND FLOOR HK PANGELINAN BLDG. MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU, SAIPAN MP 96950

iCONNECT
Push-To-Talk That Works!

880 DUTY FREE iSHOP

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO EXPRESS YOUR LOVE THIS

Valentine's Day

Period from **Feb. 11-18, 2015**

Get a chance to win
a Romantic Dinner
for 2 at
360 Revolving Restaurant

25% Off
Follow Your Heart
PERFECT MATCH OF APPAREL

HIS & HERS
Havaianas
Buy 2 pairs at
20% Off

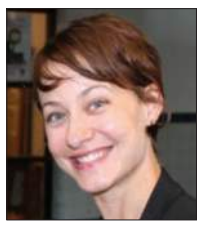
ISHOP is located at the ground floors of Kanoa Resort and Fiesta Resort & Spa
880 is in Kanoa Resort ground floor, Beach Road, Susupe | tel.: 235-3710 | Fax: 235-3719

Dockter elected president of Bar Association

The CNMI Bar Association announced yesterday the election of Jennifer Dockter as president for 2015 at the association's recent annual meeting.

Dockter was born and raised in Idaho and attended law school in San Diego, California where she graduated at the top of her class before moving to Saipan in 2008. Dockter clerked for Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman for more than a year before working briefly in the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General in 2010. She then worked as the Clerk of Court and legal counsel for the Commonwealth Supreme Court until she made the transition to private practice. She has been an associate at the Law Offices of F. Matthew Smith since 2012. Dockter served as a board member and vice president of the Bar Association before being elected president.

The following members were also elected to the board of directors: vice president Lillian Ada Tenorio; secretary Jeanne H. Rayphand; treasurer Charles E. Brasington; board member Sean E. Frink; board member Mark Scoggins; and past president now board member Maya B. Kara. Also, elected were members of the Disciplinary Committee: Timothy Bellas, Rexford Kosack, and Bruce Mailman. ***(NMI Bar Association)***



Dockter

Carquest to open Gualo Rai location

All Parts Inc. Carquest will open today an additional store in Gualo Rai, across the Shell Highway Express. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

All Parts Inc. Carquest will be opening an additional store on island, serving residents by providing for their automotive and lawn care needs in a centralized location.

The new store, located in Gualo Rai, across the Shell Highway Express, will be holding its grand opening today at 1pm. Customers are welcome to join in the festivities and are being urged to avail of the various specials for the month of February.

According to Carquest president James H. Ripple Jr. and co-owner Agnes King Ripple, the locally owned and operated business will sell auto parts, heavy equipment parts, lawn care products, small marine products, towing equipment, car accessories, a large selection of automotive oils, and many more.

"Our goal is to provide the same great products and customer service at a convenient location for customers coming from the central and northern part of the island," Ripple told *Saipan Tribune.*

The new Carquest store will operate from 8am to 6pm from Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm on Saturdays, and 8:30am to 1pm on Sundays.

Carquest account executive John Cappella and senior business technology manager Alan Cranney are expected to be present at tomorrow's grand opening.

The business started over a decade ago; the first Carquest opened in June of 2004 and currently employs 100 percent local hire.

Fama, Sasakura, Toves top MTEC essay contest

The Marianas Tourism Education Council has announced the winners of its essay contest "Tourism &Our Community."

In the high school division, senior Chelsea Fama of Marianas High School took first place, stating that tourism "promotes social values, environmental awareness, and love for our island and its people." She was followed by 10th grader Ann Margaret D. Norcio of Marianas High School in second place, and 11th grader Ou Yuan Zhi of Agape Christian School in third place.

In the junior high school division, 8th graders of Grace Christian Academy Rota swept the awards, led by Daniel Sasakura II, who wrote, "Tourism allows businesses to prosper and the people who work there to get paid. This also allows the government to get taxes and get income for future purposes." Sasakura was followed by Rency Camacho in second place and Antonio Atalig in third place.

In the elementary school division for grades 3-6, 6th grader Hanna Toves of Sinapalo Elementary School placed first, pointing out tourism "provides support such as money to build many infrastructure in our community such as public roads, parks, etc." She was followed by 6th grader Ivany Manglona of Sinapalo Elementary School in second place and 6th grader Sharmaine Olivos of Garapan Elementary School in third place.

Twelfth grader Chelsea Fama of Marianas High School poses with, from left, MTEC treasurer Chris Lubi, Marianas Visitors Authority marketing assistant Charlene Mendoza, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, MTEC board member Gordon Marciano, keynote speaker and associate professor of Global Resources Management in the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam Dr. Fred R. Schumann, and MTEC board members Larry Lee and Chris Concepcion at the Marianas Tourism Education Tourism Summit on Jan. 23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The winning essays really demonstrated a true understanding of the importance of our local tourism industry to the well-being of our community," said MTEC board member Larry Lee.

"Written essays help the students articulate what they think about the tourism and hospitality industry. It's one way to engage them and keep them informed about the importance of their role in our primary industry," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente.

Prizes for grades 3-8 were $50 (first place), $30 (second place), and $20 (third place). Prizes from grades 9-12 were $75 and 1 roundtrip ticket to the 2015 MY WAVE Tourism Summit in Guam (non-transferable, first place), $60 (second place), and $50 (third place).

Winners were announced at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015. ***(MTEC)***

February is NCDHM
National Children's Dental Health Month
DEFEAT MONSTER MOUTH
Brush 2 minutes, 2 times a day and you can defeat monster mouth, too!
Clean your teeth daily, limit snacks, eat healthy meals, and visit your dentist regularly.
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES-DENTAL CLINIC
P.O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950 • (670) 236-8369
TEETH FOR HEALTH
Maternal & Child Health BUREAU
This ad was paid for by funds made available by the Health Resources and Services Administration

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS

Middle Road, Gualo Rai

GRAND OPENING

TODAY! Thursday @ 1:00PM February 12, 2015

Super Grand Opening Sale on

ECHO® Outdoor Power Equipment

shindaiwa

Equipment and Accessories

You will never see ECHO OR SHINDAIWA EQUIPMENT priced this LOW!

30% Off Car Seat Covers, Steering Wheel Cover and other Interior Car Accessories

25% Off Lawn and Garden Accessories

35% Off All ECHO or SHINDAIWA Accessories When You Purchase Any Piece of Equipment

25% Off All Towing Accessories

And many other deals!!!

Disclaimers: While supplies last • First come first served • Discounts do not apply to sale items • See store for more details

GRAND OPENING SALE

CASH & CARRY

EVERY DAY IN FEBRUARY!!

WITH THE PURCHASE OF 5 QUARTS OF CARQUEST OIL

THE PROMOTION IS FOR PICKUP TRUCKS AND SEDANS.
CASH & CARRY ONLY, NO CHARGE ACCOUNTS.
THIS PROMOTION RUN UNTIL February 27, 2015
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

OIL FILTER 99¢

2 Convenient Locations To Serve You

Gualo Rai Branch — Tel.: 235-2277 (CARS)
Store Hours: Mon-Fri. 8:00AM to 6:00 PM
Saturdays 8:00AM to 5:00PM • Open Sundays from 8:30AM to 1:00PM

Chalan Kanoa Branch — Tel.: 235-2302
Store Hours: Mon. – Sat. 8:00AM – 5:00PM
CLOSED on SUNDAYS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 30

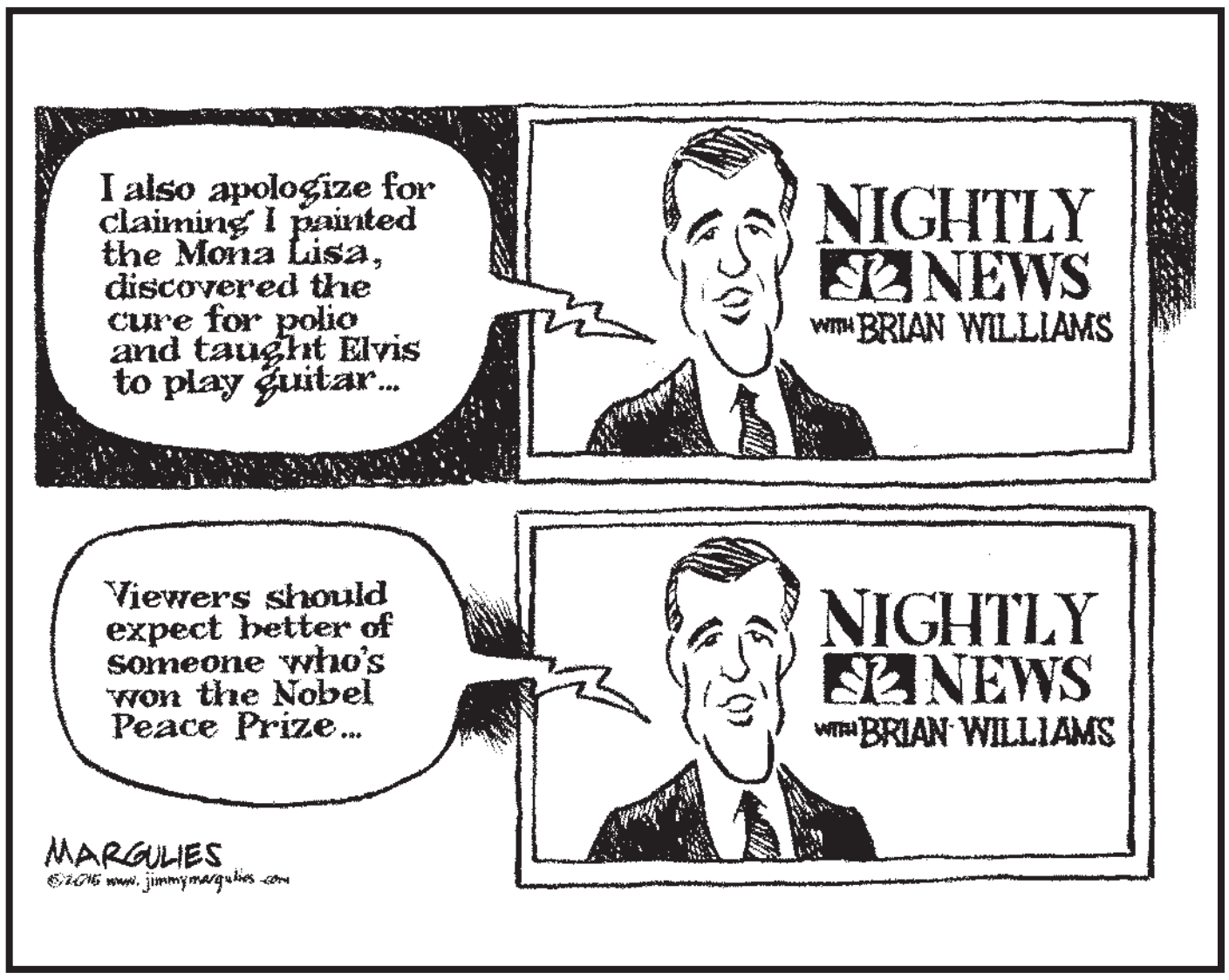
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


I also apologize for claiming I painted the Mona Lisa, discovered the cure for polio and taught Elvis to play guitar...
NIGHTLY NEWS with BRIAN WILLIAMS
Viewers should expect better of someone who's won the Nobel Peace Prize...
NIGHTLY NEWS with BRIAN WILLIAMS
MARGULIES
©2015 www.jimmymargulies.com

EDITORIAL

Brian Williams' lost credibility harms other journalists, too

"NBC Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams got the facts wrong about his flight into the Iraq war zone in 2003, then he got the apology wrong. Now, more of his public statements—including some he made about covering Hurricane Katrina—are attracting media scrutiny, prompting NBC News to launch an internal investigation. His travails are the latest illustration of the perils of celebrity journalism, in which the story takes a back seat to the person telling it. Williams' stature as the country's most-watched journalist means that his plunge in believability harms not only himself, but potentially all serious journalists who rely on the trust of their audiences.

Williams' troubles began the year before he became the face of NBC News' flagship program, when he traveled to Iraq to provide some in-person coverage of the newly launched invasion. The fact that the network sent Williams, then an anchor on CNBC and MSNBC, instead of an experienced war correspondent reflects the lamentable but common practice of chasing ratings by framing news readers as star journalists.

As *Time* magazine columnist James Poniewozik noted last week, Williams' initial account of the Iraq incident amped up the drama, the sort of tonal enhancement that's proliferating as the competition among news outlets intensifies. His experience flying into Iraq on the same night some helicopters came under fire became the story, rather than the war being fought by actual soldiers. Over time, the dramatization morphed into an outright fabrication: Williams' claim that his helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Williams is hardly the first famous person or journalist to aggrandize his role in important events. But as a journalist, he should have valued his integrity over his image. And even if he didn't, he should have known that social media would inevitably note the differences between his narrative and reality. NBC News' own Facebook account helped draw eyewitnesses out of the woodwork to say Williams wasn't in or anywhere close to the helicopter that was forced down. That blowback led Williams to apologize on air Wednesday, but he made matters worse by continuing to suggest he'd been in grave danger.

The Internet gives the public a wide range of information sources, and people have an alarming tendency to gravitate to the ones that reinforce their views. Mainstream outlets such as NBC News are counting on the credibility they've gained over years of reporting to lift them above the bellowing crowds online. That credibility is something that Williams should have taken more care to protect.

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times

150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment slips past us

By ALLEN C. GUELZO
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Allen C. Guelzo is a professor of history at Gettysburg College. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

As the 150th anniversary of the Civil War winds down toward its conclusion this spring, it's difficult not to look back on the four years of this sesquicentennial and wonder why it all seemed so lackluster. Unlike the centennial in 1961-65, Congress decided not to create a national commission. And President Barack Obama took a pass on the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.

But the most surprisingly lackluster remembrance was the one that just slipped by us—the 150th anniversary of the passing of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery in the United States.

A century and a half ago, this nation poured out billions of dollars and more than 600,000 lives in the Civil War. We even did what Americans had not tried to do for 60 years—we laid hands on our founding document, the Constitution, and wrote an amendment. The Constitution had been considered so sacrosanct that, once the first 12 amendments were adopted, not even Abraham Lincoln was eager to alter it. "Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution," he said in 1856. "That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties."

But something had to be done about slavery. The breakaway Confederacy made its attempt at secession and independence precisely to protect slavery within its boundaries, and the labor of 3.9 million African-American slaves contributed hugely to the Confederacy's early success.

Try as he might, Lincoln could find no way to subdue the Confederacy without undermining slavery, too. He hoped, during the first few months of his presidency, that he could offer federal buyouts to purchase and liberate slaves. But their owners threw the proposals back in his face. He then issued an Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, freeing by presidential declaration the slaves in the rebel states. But he had to live with the uncertainty that, once the war was over, the federal courts might declare the proclamation unconstitutional.

By 1864, Lincoln had concluded that only an amendment to the Constitution, specifically outlawing slavery, would ever rip slavery up by the roots. But an initial push in Congress for such an amendment stalled in the House of Representatives. As the Confederacy began to collapse under Union pounding, Lincoln was faced with a savagely ironic predicament: The Union might win the war and subdue the Confederacy, but the states that had tried to secede in 1861 would be returned to the Union in 1865 with some slaves freed by the proclamation but the legal status of slavery still intact and ready to start again.

It was only with Lincoln's tremendous reelection mandate in 1864 that fresh momentum to pass an abolition amendment asserted itself. We saw how shrewdly Lincoln and congressional Republicans directed that momentum in Steven Spielberg's widely acclaimed "Lincoln in 2012. And the movie did not exaggerate the joyful pandemonium that broke out on the floor of the House when the amendment squeaked through on Jan. 31, 1865.

"I wish you could have been here the day that the constitutional amendment was passed forever abolishing slavery in the United States," wrote Charles Douglass to his father, the black abolitionist Frederick Douglass. "Such rejoicing I never before witnessed, cannons firing, people hugging and shaking hands, white people, I mean, flags flying. ... I tell you things are progressing finely. ..."

To Indiana Congressman George Julian, "it seemed to me I had been born into a new life, and that the world was overflowing with beauty and joy, while I was inexpressibly thankful for the privilege of recording my name on so glorious a page of the nation's history."

In Philadelphia, the Union League resolved that the "House of the Union League shall be decorated with the National Flag, during the day, and in the evening shall be illuminated."

Sadly, no similar rejoicing marked the 150th anniversary of the amendment. And there are reasons: The 13th Amendment gave African-Americans "nothing but freedom" and did little to promote their integration as equal citizens. Like the Emancipation Proclamation (which also disappeared from the Civil War sesquicentennial's calendar), the amendment is an irritating reminder that slavery really was the root cause of the Civil War.

And perhaps the abolition of slavery, 150 years later, is taken so much for granted that we forget how much slavery had been the norm for human societies, and freedom the hard-won exception. Even today, human trafficking flourishes under the radar of Western nations, and terrorism and failed states in the rest of the world have reintroduced human slavery with dismaying ease.

The 13th Amendment was not merely an incident in the long-past details of the American Civil War. It was a blow against centuries of oppression and exploitation everywhere. If we cannot find enough in that to celebrate, then we have a far bigger problem at hand than mere historical amnesia.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Eku ginen puntan lañget

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Un` lemlem tautau gi kanton tasi, hu huñgog gi chagu` na puntan lañget ekun katen pajaru ni sige halom gi tanu`. Kulan triste yan na`mahalañg ayu na eku gi lañget.

Sumugu` un` amiguhu ya sige ham kumonbetsasion pot kinalamten i tanu`. Hu bira i kuestion tatte giya guiya pot para bai ekuñgog haf` hinassoña.

Ilegña na ha taitai tinige`hu pot kondision fondun iya Marianas ni sige pumaya`ya` gi halom potput lañgat dibi. Hu tanchu`e ni putionn gi lañget ni sige man-chalamlam gi minachum atdau. Hu apunta na mampos asgon gi chagu` ayu siha na putionn taimanu kondision monedan Marianas.

Ha sañgan lokue` chinatsagaña gi haf` mamamaila` na kuattru años. "Sin nuebu yan dañkulu na fondu man-mañogñog hit todu". Dinanche fino`ña rason sa` mampos bula dibi ke haf` humahalom gi kahan iya Marianas. Mas ke biyon pesus na dibi. Manu i otru siha na obligasion ni para u fan masuda`e apas?

"Mampos homhum na karera para i famaguon-ta. Memegaiña ti u bira siha mage dispues de man-ma-estudia". Hu pañot fino`ña sa` sumen makat machanda i metton na lini`eña haf` mamamaila`.

Parehu lini`e mame gi asuntun natibu siha ni todu fuma` katsun politika sin sinyiyu na intension. Yangin ti ta prekura umareglan maisa halom gima`ta pues libianu dinisplantan famaguon-ta ti apmam yan pa`gu.

Mampos man-diskuidau hit ni guaguan tiempu. Tinane` hit man-politikan laime `nai kontodu futtuna-ta tafa` basula. Maseha parehu chathinasson mame umakonfotma ham na taya` parehuña i gatbon kanton tasin iya Punta Muchot.

Sustansian ginen hita mismu

Ni u professotgue` kumu ti natibu pues ni ñgai`an `nai u komprende kabales sustansian linala` tautau isla guine gi O`Perlas iya Pasifiku. Gaige gi haga` ennau na espiritun kinemprende.

Siña hihot ha danche haf` para umasusede guine ginen estudiu ni uma`achule` kinalamten. Lau ni taimanu ti u komprende haf` na pogse` gumugu`ot yan sumusteteni natibu gi halom didog na mattirun pinepble. Haf` na man-magof yan mañgontentu hit gi hilu` tinaya?

■■■

Hu dadandan sunidun todu atmos bandan Pasifiku entalu` Micronesia yan tano`ta. Puru lugat este siha ni ginen hu fatoigue antes gi hilu` offisiu. Megai man-nomtum yan menhalom asoda`hu guine na tiempu. Ginen satton yan fotmat na mañan offisiat `sino representanten tanu` niha `nai umeyag-yu lokue` mañan inadahe gi offisioghu.

Gi kasse `las onse, pañgpañg un` fotten trosun uchan. I bailan uchan gi hilu` sin señat para deskansu. Hu taitai naya `nos kuantos pahinan biblia (Exodus) kulan teñguañg-hu antes de deskansog-hu. Sige pa`gu umafulu`yu` yan haf` tinaitai-hu. `An chatseguru, hu birayu` tatte gi sigiente pueñge hu ta`lun rumepasa. Debi u klaru gi hinasoghu haf` mantuge`. Taya` kampu bumuente gi tinagu` Yuus Tata yan lahiña. Estague` mas fitme na pisun ineyag gi enteru elmundu.

Guaha `nai hu birayu` guatu gi otru lepblu layeye pot para bai` tulaika i sabot materiat gi hinasoghu. Pot ihemplo, sige hu guadog haf` taimanu iya Singapore na sumen homlu` ekonomiaña. Era, hu espipiha manu` `nai gaige hale` primet siha na areglu. Yahu haf` sineda`hu gi usun manma-eduka siha na tautauña ni chumoneg man-presisu siha na tinilaika. Lau i sisteman gobietnamientu ti parehu yan hita guine mina` makat ta chogue haf` ta petsige deste sisienta siha na sakan.

Makat na asuntu mana` daña` hinasson mismu tautauña kontra Chinu yan Indian ni mas man-adelantau edukasion niha ke natibu. Dibuenamente, umafagcha` dispues gi karera mona. Mi mutmorason na finapos lau man-adanche gi pinetsigen inestablesen fitme na nasion. Guaha mohon gi entre hita humahassu umestablese nasion iya Marianas? Na ti hagas independente natibu?

■■■

Bula na tiempu tane` yan modun tinilaika ni chumapag hit ginen hagas lina`la` tradision natibu. I sistema siha lokue kulan ta aksepta kumu pisu. Gi hilu` este kontodu hita yan hita man-a`afulu` gi hilu diniskontentu. Na ti hagas metgot amestan natibu piot gi entalu` bisinu? I chinatsagan este siha na tinilaika mauleg ta repara yan dumiskute gi halom hita mismu.

■■■

Sige amiguhu manunu mantikan tiyan babue. Dispues ha supog gi paire na finadeni` ya ha saulag. Todu soblan mantika ha famauleg gi kahon ais. Hu tuñgu` na sessu yinagai dinalag damagas adeñgña. Sinparat, duru ha daflogue mantikan babue.

Huna` hassu ni puntan damagasña. Ilegña, "Braddah, mamatai ha` i tautau pot guinaiyaña". Gi sigiente dia keke`yau, chatta mamomokat sa` yinagai ta`lu dinalag. Huna` ma`lag i guafe gi feggun. Ha faisenyu` haf` para bai` chogue. Ileghu na para bai` fanunu ta`lu mantikan tiyan babue. Ai na manadan chatfinu`. Esta tutuhu` lago`ña ni chaleg putin damagasña. Pindehu!

It's not too soon to judge George W. Bush's presidency on key issues

By JAMES MANN
Los Angeles Times

James Mann, a former Los Angeles Times *correspondent, is a fellow in residence at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. His latest book,* George W. Bush, *is a volume in the American Presidents Series of biographies. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

In the six years since he left the White House, President George W. Bush has often claimed that it is too early for historical judgments about his presidency. "It's too soon to say how many of my decisions will turn out," he wrote in *Decision Points*, his presidential memoir.

In this, Bush was indulging in what we will call the Truman Consolation. President Harry S. Truman was deeply unpopular during most of his time in the White House and in the years immediately afterward. Only decades later did historians begin to rate his presidency highly for the actions he took in the early years of the Cold War. At one time or another, when their poll ratings are slumping and their media coverage is biting, most modern American presidents like to believe they will eventually be vindicated, just as Truman was.

But Bush is largely wrong: In some of the most important areas of his presidency, it's not too soon to draw conclusions. Just by judging against Bush's own forecasts, some of the most far-reaching and important initiatives of his presidency didn't work—or turned out poorly.

At the top of the list is the war in Iraq. Bush and his advisors badly misjudged what it would entail. They overestimated the international support the United States would be able to obtain for military action. They asserted before the war that American troops would need to stay in Iraq for no more than a couple of years. The administration's public estimate before the war was that it would cost less than $100 billion; instead, it cost $2 trillion.

Intended originally as a short-term demonstration of American power and influence, the Iraq war over the longer term brought about the opposite. In its unhappy aftermath, Americans became increasingly cautious, more reluctant to become involved overseas. Overall, the war will go down as a strategic blunder of epic proportions, among the most serious in American history.

A similar fate will befall the second-most far-reaching aspect of Bush's legacy, his historic tax cuts. Bush argued that they would stimulate the economy and spur economic growth. The short-term benefits proved dubious at best, but the harmful long-term consequences were incalculable, both for the federal government and, more importantly, for American society.

When Bush took office, America was in a brief period of budgetary surplus. There was actually a debate, forgotten and almost unimaginable today, about how to use the surplus: Pay down the debt? Launch new federal initiatives? Bush chose to cut taxes, and then did so in ways (tax cuts on dividends and capital gains) that proved immensely beneficial to the wealthiest Americans.

It's true that President Barack Obama eventually allowed the Bush cuts on upper-income Americans to expire. But the damage had been done. Over the course of nearly a decade, the federal government became increasingly short of funds, while wealthy Americans built up greater and greater assets. Whenever you use a road, bridge or airport that needs repairs (or read a news story about the Pentagon complaining about budget constraints), you might pause to think about the Bush tax cuts and the role they played in shaping the America we see today.

Bush's second round of tax cuts, in 2003, were historic in another sense. By then, he had already dispatched American troops to Iraq. In every previous military conflict since the Civil War, American presidents had raised taxes to help defray the costs. Bush bucked this historical trend: He lowered them.

It's true that in a few other policy areas judgments of Bush's presidency may improve over the years as events unfold and as more information comes to light.

The primary example could be counter-terrorism. The Senate's recent report on enhanced interrogation techniques makes current judgments on that dark era even harsher than they would have been otherwise. Torture is torture, and no passage of time will change the moral judgments on that.

On the other hand, in the immediate aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris, some Europeans began to ask why the attackers had not been kept under greater surveillance. If such terrorist attacks were to continue over many years, then judgments on the Bush-era surveillance programs might eventually come to be less harsh than they are today. Or they may come to be seen as the true beginning of a new surveillance state. More time needs to pass before historical judgments on this issue can take shape.

Overall, Bush's presidency is likely to be remembered for his lack of caution and restraint. Once, in the midst of a discussion with his military advisors, Bush made a telling observation: "Someone has got to be risk-averse in this process, and it better be you, because I'm not."

George W. Bush was certainly not risk-averse. He took gambles both in foreign policy and with the economy. Sometimes they paid off. Yet overall, the country paid heavily for the risks he took. History isn't likely to revise that judgment.

Different definitions of disabilities

By JEANNE RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Some disabilities are obvious; some are not. Some disabilities interfere with performance at school or at work or with interpersonal relationships.

For purposes of special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, a child with a disability is a child who has been evaluated as having a specific disability and who, by reason of that disability, needs special education and related services. *See 34 C.F.R. § 300.8.*

For purposes of Social Security Income, a child under age 18 may be considered "disabled" if the person has a medically determinable physical or mental impairment (including an emotional or learning problem) that:

- results in marked and severe functional limitations; and
- can be expected to result in death; or
- has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. *See www.ssa.gov/disability.*

For purposes of Social Security Retirement or Supplemental Security Income, the Social Security Administration pays only for total disability. No benefits are payable for partial disability or for short-term disability. For an adult, the disability must result in the "inability to do any substantial gainful activity" and

- can be expected to result in death; or
- has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. *See www.ssa.gov/disability.*

For purposes of vocational rehabilitation services, an "individual with a disability" means an individual who "(i) has a physical or mental impairment which for such individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment; and (ii) can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services…" *29 U.S.C. § 705(9); Program Services Policy and Procedures Manual for Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, Section 10.*

So, while there are different definitions of "disability" depending upon the services or benefits one needs, it is important to remember that DISABILITY DOES NOT MEAN WITHOUT ABILITY.

If you have a disability and need assistance in obtaining benefits or services as a result of that disability, contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273; (670) 235-7274; (670) 235-7275 (fax); (670) 235-7278 (tty); or online at www.nmpasi.org. NMPASI may be able to assist through one of its programs, such as Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), Protection & Advocacy for Development Disabilities (PADD); Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR); Protection & Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PAAT); Client Assistance Program (CAP); or Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS).

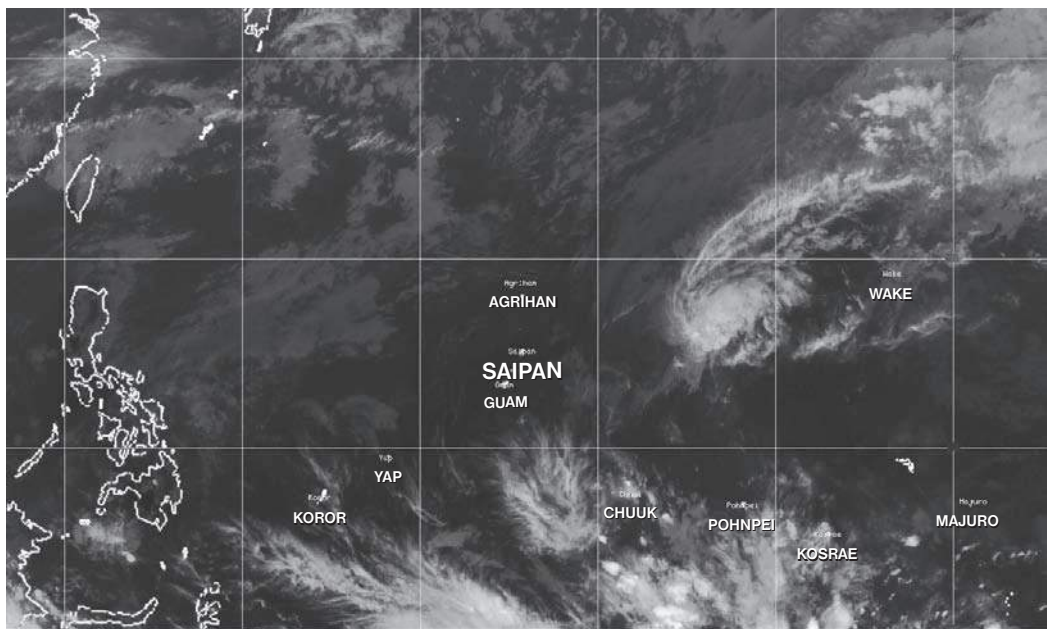
Jeanne Rayphand is legal counsel of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. This column is an unsolicited and unpaid contribution by the author.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Higos (02W) is centered 550 miles north-northwest of Pohnpei near 14N155E with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph and moving toward the northwest at 10 mph. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place within 150 miles of the center. Scattered showers are present farther out from the center between 11N and 20N from 149E to 163E. For more detailed information on Typhoon Higos, see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. An old frontal boundary extends east-southeastward from 19N154E to beyond the date line at 15N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary. This area includes Wake Island. A cold front curves southwestward from near 25N150E to beyond 130E at 13N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and up to 350 miles northwest of the front. A near-equatorial trough curves northeastward from 1N130E through a circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 5N146E then to Typhoon Higos at 12N156E. The trough continues southeastward from Higos to end near EQ166E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae, or south of a line from 8N141E to 8N161E to EQ170E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers over the Marshall Islands within 65 miles of a line from 3N172E to 5N176E to 7N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲44	▼21
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲70	▼56
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼64
London	Cloudy	▲45	▼38
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼71
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼62
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼56
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲34	▼21
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼37
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼34
Pusan	Sunny	▲48	▼23
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼43
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼41
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲37	▼19
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼31

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:40 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
12:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:05 AM	11:56 PM
Friday	12:57 AM	12:44 PM
Saturday	1:51 AM	1:36 PM
Sunday	2:47 AM	2:32 PM
Monday	3:44 AM	3:32 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Federal appeals court hears A. Samoa citizenship suit

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata has joined the territorial government as an "intervenor" in the citizenship lawsuit, with oral arguments heard yesterday at the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C.

Plaintiffs in the case, led by local resident Leneuoti Tuaua, have argued that the citizenship clause of the U.S. Constitution applies to persons born in American Samoa, and therefore they should have been given automatic citizenship.

Defendants, which include the U.S. Department of State and the Secretary of State, disagree, arguing that only Congress has the authority to grant U.S. citizenship to "outlying territories" such as American Samoa.

The lower court agreed and dismissed the lawsuit filed by the plaintiffs, who then appealed the case. Both sides have already filed written briefs—including individuals participating in the appeal as 'amici curiae', or friends of the court.

Washington, D.C.-based attorney for the intervenors Michael Williams told Samoa News that he expects the appeals court will issue a decision in the next couple of months, adding that the Court of Appeals ordinarily decides all of its cases for a particular term by the summer and often issues decisions much sooner than that.

Asked what his oral arguments centered on and the judges' reaction, Williams said the judges were well prepared and asked insightful questions about the role of American Samoa in both American history and con-

» Plaintiffs claim US Constitution guaranties citizenship

temporary constitutional law.

"The court appeared to appreciate both sides of this case, acknowledging the need to protect Samoan nationals from unfair discrimination while maintaining the right of the Samoan people to determine their political status," he said yesterday after the hearing. "It is encouraging that the court seemed to understand the unique, vibrant culture of American Samoa and the importance of preserving the traditional Samoan way of life."

Assistant U.S. Attorney, Kelly Wynne, who argued for the defendants, said, "Unfortunately, I cannot comment at this time." Wynne referred additional questions to William Miller, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. ***(Fili Sagapolutele)***

Yap 'Robo League' growing, thanks to Matson

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students at Yap Catholic with boxes of donated robotic equipment facilitated by Matson.

YAP, Micronesia—Each year since 2012, students from two independent high schools on Yap have held a "Robo Day" exhibition. The fast-paced event showcases the technical accomplishments of the student robotics teams for the People of Yap. These annual Robo Day competitions at the Kolonia Civic Center last only a few hours but reflect the hard work of students and teachers throughout the entire school year.

Soon, students from a third school—Yap Public High School—may be joining in on "Robo Day" as well.

Vex robotics teams were established at the Yap SDA School and Yap Catholic High School in the fall of 2011. The U.S.-based charity "Habele" coordinated the donation of robotics kits from students from the robotics team at Chaminade College Preparatory High School in West Hills, California. The pan-Pacific partnership included materials, instructional videos, and peer-to-peer encouragement.

Working with support from the team at Chaminade, as well as the instruction from their own schools' teachers, the student teams at SDA and YCHS have grown steadily ever since. Members design, build, and compete mechanically complex robots, learning important Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills in a hands-on fashion. Many of the students initially involved with the teams have since graduated and moved onto higher education in STEM fields, in large part due to their experiences with the Robo League.

Now, through the generous investment of the Matson Foundation, materials and support are being provided to update and expand the Robo League. Once again American students at Chaminade have gathered and assembled materials to supply teams in Yap. These heavy and large donations have been organized by Habele, and delivered to educators on Yap through the financial support of Matson, a Pacific-wide public shipping company with a celebrated history of philanthropy and community engagement. Teams at Yap Catholic and the SDA School will be re-provisioned, and materials will be offered to educators at Yap Public High School for the creation of a new team.

Jamie Mooteb, a college-bound senior at YCHS cites the Robo League as a source of personal inspiration. "I've hoped to study engineering ever since joining the robotics club freshman year. …I'm really excited about the newly donated equipment," Mooteb said. "It will be cool to have all three high schools compete. Thanks to Matson and the students at Chaminade High School for making this possible!"

Bernie Valencia, general manager, Matson Guam, echoed Mooteb's enthusiasm. "Matson's employees and their families are proud to partner with Habele, investing in the students and schools of Yap. Matson knows firsthand how science and engineering are the key to innovation and growth; that makes the Robo League so special to us." ***(Habele)***

Hawaii restaurant to return $150K in tips, back wages

Hawaii's Buzz's Original Steak House will return $150,000 in tips and other back wages to 109 employees at its Kailua and Pearl City restaurants after the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division found the eateries violated the wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. During a two-year period, an investigation determined cash wages of tipped employees were reduced below the minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, and servers were unlawfully required to pay a portion of their tips to managers. ***(USDOL)***

Gioda, Iris Clarissa
P.O. Box 506182
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 288-1459

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: (CLG) Aug. 15, 2014 Minor Child	))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0035 **NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: Gioda, Iris Clarissa Petitioner,	))	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 23, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on February 13, 2015, from 12:00pm –2:00pm at the Pacific Islands Club – Napu Room.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – August 29, 2014
V. ACTION ITEMS
- a. Ratification/Approval of Renewal Trankilu Alternative Financing Program MOA between CDD and CAMI
- b. Approval of Proposed FY 2015 Budget for DD Basic Grant
- c. Approval of Proposed FY 2015 Budget for Assistive Technology Grant

VI. REPORT
- a. Chairman
- b. Executive Director
- c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
- d. State Plan Committee Chairperson

VII. OLD BUSINESS
- a. Update on National Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities
- b. Update on Commonwealth Respite Service Program

VIII. NEW BUSINESS
- a. March 2015 DD Awareness Month
- b. Resource Directory

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
XII. MISCELLANEOUS
XIII. NEXT MEETING
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS! • OPEN: Thursday and Friday 11am to 7pm • Saturday 9am to 7pm

TOSHIBA 50" LED SLIM TV **$999.95**

KENMORE COMPACT REFRIGERATOR 3.3 CU FT **$189.95**

HAMILTON BEACH PROGRAMMABLE 5QT SLOW COOKER **$49.95**

MR. COFFEE K-CUP SINGLE CUP BREWING SYSTEM **$84.95**

PROCTOR SILEX ELECTRIC KNIFE EASY SLICE **$20.95**

BELLA EXTRA LARGE 10X18 GRIDDLE **$39.95**

PROCTOR SILEX CAN OPENER **$13.95**

EH 15PC CUTLERY SET **$19.95**

ADORN 4PC SKETCHED **$18.95**

JACLYN SMITH GATSBY 4 DRAWER DRESSER **$179.95**

ESSENTIAL HOME JACKSON 5PC FAUX MARBLE DINING SET **$279.95**

ESSENTIAL HOME GRAYSON ARMOIRE **$199.95**

ESSENTIAL HOME 4 TIER CLOSET SHELVES **$14.95**

LG 5014 5,000 BTU WINDOW A/C **$149.95**

CRAFTSMAN 20" HIGH VELOCITY FAN **$63.95**

EXQUISITE 3PC BATHROOM ORGANIZER SET **$36.95**

BISSEL DUAL BRUSH SWEEPER **$39.95**

HOMELITE 2700 PSI GAS PRESSURE WASHER **$469.95**

ARMOUR ALL COMPLETE CAR CARE KIT **$19.95**

4 SEASONS - TARP 16'X12' - HEAVY DUTY **$19.95**

DURA BUILT RED/BLACK 12GAL FLIP FLOP TOTE **$10.95**

ACDELCO 2TON TROLLY JACK KIT **$54.95**

COSCO BOOSTER CAR SEAT TOP SIDE **$22.95**

COLEMAN 48QT COOLER **$29.95**

ESSENTIAL HOME METAL DRYING RACK **$22.95**

95¢ 4 SEASONS ARM FLOATIES 2PC 10"H

POCKET HOSE ULTRA 75FT **$35.95**

HOME LOGIC 1.5 HAMPER LIDDED D-SHAPE **$16.95**

CHAMPION BREED ADULT CRUNCHY BITES/BONES 40LB **$29.95**

ALL VALENTINES ITEM 20% OFF

HOSIERY 6-8 SOLID SUPER LOW THICK SPANDEX **$3.95**

HOSIERY - 9-11 PLAIN WHITE SUPER LOW SPORT SOCKS **$15.95**

EVEREST - DELUXE LAPTOP BACKPACK **$35.95**

ROCKIN FOOTWEAR **$2.95**

TCM INTERNATIONAL SOLAR LANTERN **$15.95**

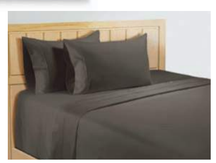
PILLOW, 55X55CM **$8.95**

NORTHWEST TERRITORY AIR MATTRESS - FULL SIZE **$24.95**

QUILT EXTRA KING SIZE, 2X2.3M **$16.95**

DISNEY MICKEY MOUSE TABLE & CHAIRS SET **$59.95**

ESSENTIAL HOME 325 TC SHEET 3PC SET TWIN SIZE **$39.95**



ESSENTIAL HOME 325 TC SHEET 4PC SET FULL SIZE **$45.95**

ESSENTIAL HOME SALERNO FUTON **$289.95**

BEGINNINGS BY SAUDER COMPUTER TABLE **$69.95**

WANTECH-58"H VERDIGRIS FLOOR LAMP **$49.95**

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store

We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Business

Oil on wild ride; How will it end?

NEW YORK (AP)—The price of oil is on a wild ride, and there is little agreement on where it's headed.

After falling nearly 60 percent from a peak last June, the price of oil bounced back more than 20 percent as January turned to February. Then, on Tuesday, it sunk 5 percent, closing just above $50. Oil has fallen or risen by 3 percent or more on 14 of 27 trading days so far this year. By comparison, the stock market hasn't had a move that big in more than three years.

Predicting prices is especially tricky now because the oil market has never quite looked like this. Oil price collapses of the past were triggered either by plummeting demand or an increase in supplies. This latest one had both. Production in the U.S. and elsewhere has been rising, while slower economic growth in China and weak economies in Europe and Japan means demand for oil isn't growing as much as expected.

As recent trading shows, any sign of reduced production inspires traders to buy oil, and every new sign of rising supplies sends prices lower. In a report Tuesday the U.S. Energy Department, citing unusual uncertainty, said the price of oil could end up anywhere from $32 to $108 by December.

"There are many more laps to come on this roller coaster," said Judith Dwarkin, chief economist at ITG Investment Research.

As oil bounces up and down, so will the price of gasoline, diesel and other fuels. Almost no one expects a return to the very high prices of the last four years, so drivers and shippers will continue to pay lower prices. It's a question of how much less, and for how long.

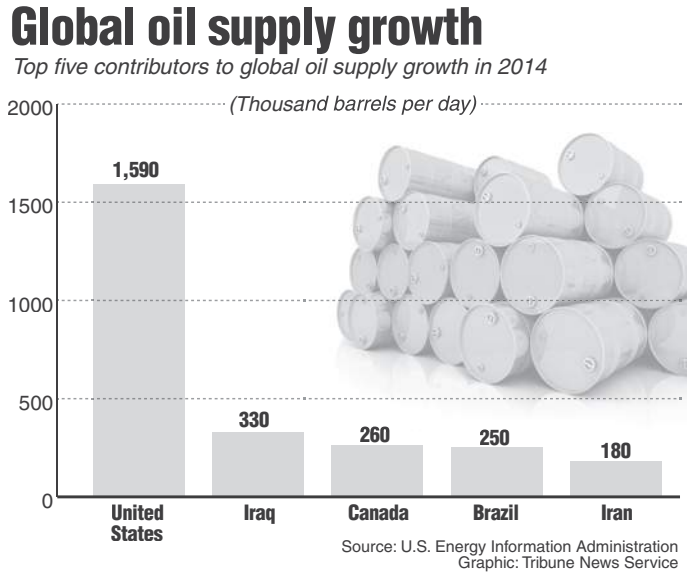
OIL WILL RISE

Those expecting a quick and lasting price jump see mounting evidence that drillers in the U.S. are pulling back fast because they're no longer making money. A closely-watched survey by the oil services company Baker Hughes shows that the number of rigs actively drilling for oil fell to 1,140 last week, down 29 percent from a record high of 1,609 in October.

Oil companies have announced spending cuts in the billions of dollars; oil service companies have announced layoffs of thousands of workers.

If companies stop drilling new wells in North Dakota and Texas, the centers of the U.S. oil boom, overall U.S. production could fall fast. Output from most of those wells declines far more quickly than production from more traditional wells. Analysts at Bernstein Research estimate that U.S. production declines at 30 percent a year without constant investment in new wells.

A quick decline in production would send prices higher by reducing global supplies. At the same time, demand could be on the rise. The U.S. economy seems to be improving rapidly and demand for gasoline is increasing. Global demand may also rise somewhat simply because low prices tend to encourage more consumption.



If the oil bulls are right, it means prices for transportation fuels would rise and the slowdown in drilling activity in the U.S. would perhaps be short-lived.

OIL WILL FALL

Others say oil production is still rising and demand isn't yet catching up—a recipe for lower oil prices.

The oil bears argue that there are plenty of rigs still working, and they are now focused only on the most prolific spots. Also, oil services companies are charging significantly less for equipment and expertise. This means oil companies may be able to keep oil supplies rising from already high levels despite low prices.

The Energy Department reported last week that there was a record 1.18 billion barrels of oil in storage in the U.S. ITG's Dwarkin estimates that in the first half of this year the world will be producing, on average, 2 million barrels per day more than it will be consuming.

Analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch say $32 a barrel is possible. Ed Morse, an analyst at Citi, called the recent rise in prices a "head fake" and predicts oil could plunge into the $20 range, the lowest since 2002.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Let hackers in: Experts say traps might be better than walls

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Ever since the Internet blossomed in the 1990s, cybersecurity was built on the idea that computers could be protected by a digital quarantine. Now, as hackers routinely overwhelm such defenses, experts say cybersecurity is beyond due an overhaul. Their message: Neutralize attackers once they're inside networks rather than fixating on trying to keep them out. First they need to convince a conservative business world to gamble on a different approach. And having sold generations of defensive systems that consistently lagged the capabilities of the most advanced hackers, the industry itself must overcome skepticism it's flogging another illusion of security. According to U.S. cybersecurity company FireEye, 229 days is the median length of time attackers lurk inside their victim's computers before being detected or revealing themselves, underscoring the weakness of conventional tools in identifying sophisticated intruders.

Hostage crisis sharpens focus on Japan's Middle East risks

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's outrage over the slaying of two Japanese hostages by the Islamic State group is settling into a heightened awareness of risks associated with the country's pursuit of lucrative energy projects and other economic ties in the Middle East. Tokyo's No. 1 salesman, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, was wrapping up a six-day Middle East tour with executives of several dozen Japanese companies in tow on Jan. 20, when the Islamic State group purportedly issued a demand for $200 million in exchange for the two hostages. The apparent beheadings of journalist Kenji Goto and gun aficionado Haruna Yukawa in Syria shattered the sense of security among Japanese and raised questions over Abe's effort to sell nuclear power technology in the region that supplies over 80 percent of Japan's oil and gas. On Tuesday, a government committee began investigating the killings and will also assess ways to better protect Japanese overseas.

Nation

AZ mountain town mourns for American woman held by IS

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP)—The small Arizona town where Kayla Jean Mueller grew up gathered in grief Tuesday upon learning that the 26-year-old aid worker who traveled the world on a quest to help others had died while in the hands of Islamic State militants.

Mueller

A memorial of flowers and handwritten notes took shape on the courthouse plaza in Prescott near a sign calling on people to pray for her.

In Washington, President Barack Obama pledged to bring Mueller's captors to justice "no matter how long it takes."

Muller's 18-month captivity had largely been kept secret in an effort to save her. The Islamic State group claimed Friday that she had died in a recent Jordanian airstrike targeting the militants.

On Tuesday, her parents and U.S. officials confirmed her death. The Pentagon said U.S. officials don't know how or when she died but are certain it was not in the Jordanian airstrike.

"What a fine, fine woman and a tribute to Prescott," said 15-year resident Tina Nemeth. "It's just so sad, it really is, and everyone feels exactly the same. It's a shock it hit Prescott. We're not that big of a town."

The former territorial capital of Arizona has only recently begun to recover from a devastating 2013 wildfire that claimed the lives of 19 members of an elite firefighting squad. Stickers featuring the fire crew's logo and bearing the number "19" are still fixed to vehicles all around town.

The mountain town of 40,000 people resembles a relic of the Old West in many ways, with its colorful downtown saloons and a dirt road leading out of town to where Mueller's family lives. Its picturesque downtown courthouse lawn is recognizable to outsiders who still recall it as the site of the dramatic martial-arts fight scene in the 1971 film "Billy Jack."

On Tuesday, that lawn was crammed with members of the media gathered to hear an emotional, often tearful tribute from Mueller's family and friends.

"All these stories about Kayla, she sounds so extraordinary," said the Rev. Kathleen Day, who heads the United Christian Ministry at Northern Arizona University, where Mueller attended college.

Some Alabama counties refuse gay marriages, prompting suit

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Same-sex marriage spread farther across Alabama on Tuesday as more courthouses issued licenses to gays and lesbians, yet some counties still defied a federal judge's order, so couples took their fight back to court.

The dispute and confusion headed toward a showdown in federal court set for Thursday in Mobile, where gay couples have waited for two days in a courthouse after officials quit issuing marriage licenses altogether—even for heterosexual couples—rather than sell them to same-sex couples.

Jim Strawser and his partner John Humphrey sat outside the shuttered marriage license window at the Mobile County courthouse.

"Come on, you've got a federal court order. Open those windows," Strawser said to no avail.

Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore threw the state into disarray when, at the 11th hour, he ordered probate judges not to allow gay marriages. He gave the order even though a federal judge ruled the state's ban was unconstitutional and the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the marriages to begin Monday.

Moore's effort brought immediate comparisons to Alabama Gov. George Wallace's 1960s vow of "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."

Moore made a national name for himself when he disobeyed a federal court order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the state courthouse in 2003. He was forced from the bench back then, but re-elected to the state Supreme Court in 2012.

Despite Moore's order, hundreds of jubilant couples have received marriage licenses in large cities, including Montgomery, Huntsville and Birmingham, making Alabama the 37th state where gays have legally wed.

At least 19 of the state's 67 counties had issued wedding licenses to same-sex couples or said Tuesday they would do so, compared to just seven on Monday. The exact number of counties refusing to sell licenses wasn't immediately clear.

Dead infant's mom says 11-year-old suspect wanted sleepover

CLEVELAND (AP)—The mother of a 2-month-old who police suspect was beaten to death over the weekend by a friend's 11-year-old daughter said Tuesday it was the girl who asked that the baby stay overnight with her and her mother.

Trina Whitehead, 31, of Cleveland, told The Associated Press that she and the girl's mother were best friends and that she never saw anything in the girl's behavior that concerned her. Whitehead said her two daughters, who are 8 and 7 years old, previously stayed the night at the friend's home in suburban Wickliffe without any reported problems.

She said the 11-year-old seemed like a normal, sweet girl.

"I definitely trusted her," Whitehead said. "I never thought my baby would be put in some type of harm."

The 11-year-old has been charged with murder and is being held in a juvenile detention center. A judge entered a not guilty plea for the girl on Monday and has ordered a psychiatric evaluation.

The Associated Press is not naming the 11-year-old girl or her mother because of her age.

Wickliffe police say the girl awakened her mother at about 3:30 a.m. Friday holding the unconscious infant, Zuri Whitehead. The 2-month-old died during surgery about six hours later. The medical examiner has not released a cause of death, but police have said Zuri received extensive head and internal injuries.

Whitehead said the 11-year-old's mother called her around 9:30 p.m. Thursday and said they were close by and that they wanted to keep Zuri overnight. The girl and her mother thought Whitehead deserved a break from caring for the infant. Whitehead said she almost declined the offer because it was so late and she was not prepared, but she relented when they insisted.

The two women met in 2008 while working in the medical clinic at the Cuyahoga County jail and remained fast friends, Whitehead said. They consider each other sisters. The girl's mother has called to apologize, Whitehead said.

Asia

Muslim rebels to return guns of slain Filipino commandos

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines pledged on Tuesday to return the firearms and other belongings of anti-terror police commandos who were killed by the insurgents in a gunbattle that has stalled a new peace deal for their southern region.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader Mohagher Iqbal told a Senate hearing in a letter read by a rebel representative that the 11,000-strong Moro insurgent group "never wanted that unfortunate incident," referring to the Jan. 25 fighting that resulted in the largest government combat loss in recent memory.

Killed were 44 of the police commandos, 18 guerrillas and at least three villagers.

The guerrillas said they were investigating to determine the number of firearms and other belongings that should be returned. It was the first known time that the Moro guerrillas have agreed to return the firearms of slain government forces.

"I take this opportunity to inform your honor that the (Moro group) has decided to return the firearms and any retrievable personal effects of the fallen (policemen) in deference to the peace process," Iqbal said.

Nearly 400 Special Action Force commandos covertly attacked in a marshy hinterland off southern Mamasapano town to capture Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as Marwan, and a top Filipino bombing suspect, Abdul Basit Usman. Marwan was killed and Usman escaped, then the withdrawing police forces engaged in separate clashes with the Moro rebels and other armed groups in the region, Philippine officials said.

The Moro rebels have said the fighting was a "misencounter" because the police commandos did not coordinate the anti-terror raid with them, adding they were not aware that Marwan and Usman were hiding in their Mamasapano stronghold. National police officer in charge Leonardo Espina said the overwhelming number of rebels had no reason to mow down his men with gunfire because they were on a legitimate anti-terror mission.

President Benigno Aquino III's administration and the Moro rebel group signed the peace deal last year. Following the killing of the police commandos, incensed Filipino lawmakers suspended congressional hearings on the legislation that would authorize the establishment of the new Muslim autonomy region under the peace accord.

A Senate investigation that started Monday showed that the commander of the elite forces deliberately did not inform top security officials, including the military chief of staff, the acting national police chief and the defense and interior secretaries of the anti-terror assault against Marwan and Usman before it was launched, officials said.

Military chief of staff Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang and other generals told a Senate hearing Tuesday that their lack of prior knowledge of the assault prevented them from rapidly providing help to the commandos, including artillery support.

Malaysia swoops down on dissent over Anwar's jailing

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police have detained a cartoonist and are investigating two lawmakers for sedition over tweets and a cartoon condemning the judiciary for dismissing opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's final appeal against a sodomy conviction.

Anwar began a 5-year jail sentence Tuesday after the country's top court ruled there was overwhelming evidence showing that he sodomized a former male aide in 2008.

Police detained cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar Alhaque, better known as Zunar, at his home late Tuesday over a series of tweets on Anwar's case. A cartoon he posted on Twitter showed Prime Minister Najib Razak as the judge in Anwar's case.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar also directed his men to investigate opposition lawmakers Nga Kor Ming and Rafizi Ramli for sedition. Nga tweeted it was time for the people to oppose a cruel regime, while Rafizi tweeted a cartoon of a judge wearing a white wig with the dollar sign on it.

The police moves were criticized by rights groups, with New York-based Human Rights Watch saying it was shameful that Malaysian authorities had turned peaceful criticism into a criminal act.

"Clearly it is designed to intimidate and instil fear in people on social media to go silent on their views. It is a further erosion of freedom of expression in Malaysia," said the group's Asia deputy director Phil Robertson.

Anwar's case was widely seen at home and abroad as politically motivated to eliminate any threats to the ruling coalition, whose popularity has slowly been eroding since 2008 after more than five decades of unquestioned dominance.

He is the most vocal and visible symbol of the opposition's resurgence and seen as the most potent political threat to Prime Minister Najib.

Anwar was accused of sodomizing Saiful Bukhari Azlan, then 23, who was working as a lowly aide in the opposition campaign office in 2008.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH protests China land reclamation at another reef

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has protested Chinese land reclamation at a disputed reef in the South China Sea, saying it violates Manila's exclusive economic zone. Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Charles Jose said Tuesday a diplomatic protest was handed to a Chinese Embassy representative on Feb. 4 urging Beijing to stop the land reclamation at Panganiban Reef, also called Mischief Reef. China occupied the reef in 1995, and later expanded stilt structures into a concrete building several stories high. The Philippines protested both moves at the time. Jose said it appears China is constructing an artificial island at the reef. China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, resource-rich waters where the Philippines and other neighboring nations also have claims.

100-car pileup on South Korean bridge leaves 2 dead, 42 hurt

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials say two people were killed and at least 42 were injured after a pileup involving about 100 vehicles in foggy weather on a bridge near the Incheon International Airport. Byeon Tae-u of the Incheon Fire and Safety Management Department said Wednesday that the number of the injured could increase as emergency workers are having trouble reaching all of the damaged cars on the 4,400-meter (14,400-foot) bridge on the highway from the airport to the capital Seoul. He says the accident occurred in a Seoul-bound lane and was likely aggravated by thick fog and icy road conditions. Kim Mun-won of the Incheon Jungbu Fire Station says that about 100 cars were involved in the pileup. It was not immediately known what started the pileup.

World

Foreign fighters flock to Syria, Iraq

AP

In this Dec. 5, 2014 photo, people walk in the low-income Tunis suburb of Mhamdiya, Tunisia, which has produced a number of young men that left to fight in Syria for extremist groups.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Foreign fighters are streaming into Syria and Iraq in unprecedented numbers to join the Islamic State or other extremist groups, including at least 3,400 from Western nations among 20,000 from around the world, U.S. intelligence officials say in an updated estimate of a top terrorism concern.

Intelligence agencies now believe that as many as 150 Americans have tried and some have succeeded in reaching in the Syrian war zone, officials told the House Homeland Security Committee in testimony prepared for delivery on Wednesday. Some of those Americans were arrested en route, some died in the area and a small number are still fighting with extremists.

The testimony and other data were obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Nick Rasmussen, chief of the National Counterterrorism Center, said the rate of foreign fighter travel to Syria is without precedent, far exceeding the rate of foreigners who went to wage jihad in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen or Somalia at any other point in the past 20 years.

U.S. officials fear that some of the foreign fighters will return undetected to their homes in Europe or the U.S. to mount terrorist attacks. At least one of the men responsible for the attack on a satirical magazine in Paris had spent time with Islamic extremists in Yemen.

Meanwhile, the White House circulated a proposal Tuesday that would have Congress authorize the U.S. military to fight Islamic State terrorists over the next three years. A formal request for legislation is expected on Wednesday.

Also at the White House, President Barack Obama praised Kayla Jean Mueller, the young American whose death was confirmed Tuesday. Mueller died while in Islamic State hands, though the group blamed a Jordanian airstrike, and Obama said, "No matter how long it takes, the United States will find and bring to justice the terrorists who are responsible for Kayla's captivity and death."

Fighting intensifies in eastern Ukraine ahead of peace talks

SARTANA, Ukraine (AP)—Fighting intensified Tuesday in eastern Ukraine as pro-Russia rebels and Ukrainian troops sought to extend their gains ahead of crucial peace talks, and the government accused the separatists of shelling a town far behind the front lines, killing 12 people and wounding scores.

Germany, which has joined with France to try to broker a peace deal, urged Russia and Ukraine to compromise and called on the warring parties to refrain from hostilities that could derail a four-way summit Wednesday in Minsk, Belarus.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said the talks were "one of the last" opportunities for ending the fighting that has killed more than 5,300 people since April.

Poroshenko told parliament in Kiev that the separatists launched a rocket strike Tuesday on the town of Kramatorsk, more than 30 miles (50 kilometers) from the nearest front line, hitting a regional military command center with the first salvo and then striking a nearby residential area.

Rebels denied any involvement in the attack and said it was a "provocation" by the Ukrainian authorities. Kramatorsk was the site of major fighting until July, when pro-Russian separatists retreated.

The government-controlled Donetsk administration said 12 people were killed by the barrage in Kramatorsk and 64 were wounded, including 29 civilians. Photos on the local Donetskiye Novosti website showed an artillery shell embedded in the ground next to a residential building and two bodies lying nearby.

Further south, the volunteer Azov battalion, loyal to the government in Kiev, said on social media Tuesday that it captured several villages northeast of the strategic port of Mariupol, pushing the rebels closer to the border with Russia.

However, a rebel spokesman, Eduard Basurin, insisted in a televised news conference that the rebels had not retreated.

WORLD BRIEFS

From Jordan base, UAE resumes airstrikes on Islamic State

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—United Arab Emirates fighter planes roared out of an air base in Jordan on Tuesday to pound Islamic State militant positions, marking a return to combat operations by one of the United States' closest Arab allies in the fight against the extremists. The Emirates' decision to launch fresh airstrikes from the kingdom after a more-than-monthlong hiatus was a strong show of support for Western-allied Jordan, which has vowed a punishing response to the militants' killing of one of its pilots. It also is likely to quiet concerns in Washington about the oil-rich Emirates' commitment to the fight.

Egypt orders 3 soccer fans detained following stampede

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian prosecutors have ordered three soccer fans detained for 15 days and have released 18 others on bail in the wake of a deadly stampede outside a Cairo stadium. The fans are accused of attacking policemen, damaging police cars and terrorizing the public, an official said Tuesday. The official said the three still detained include a 15-year old. He said 18 others were released after paying a $26 bail each, pending investigation. They are all also accused of rioting and burning a police car. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters. Earlier, prosecutor Mohammed Seif told reporters that none of the 21 had been formally charged with anything yet.

Focus

Life under shelling in eastern Ukraine: a battle to survive

AP
In this picture taken, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, Ruslan Banin, 18 years old, walks in his courtyard in Donetsk, Ukraine. Day and night, mortars and rockets rain down on the rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine– mainly in the city's outlying districts, where the poorest people live.

By PETER LEONARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—At the Trudovskoi bus station in Donetsk, the gossip these days focuses on whose house has been hit by shelling and where you can get food handouts.

Day and night, mortars and rockets rain down on the rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine—mainly in the city's outlying districts, where the poorest people live.

"One shell fell, then another, and then yet another. One hit the Azerbaijani family's house, remember?" 64-year-old Nikolai Skripko told his 38-year-old neighbor, Sveta Banina, counting the damaged houses on his fingers.

Death bulletins have become almost daily fare since last spring, when Russian-backed rebels took up arms, trying to break two eastern regions away from Ukraine. The United Nations estimates that more than 5,300 people have been killed and nearly a million forced from their homes by the fighting.

The economic ruin caused by the violence has yet to be calculated—but it's vast. Joblessness is rife in the rebellious regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. Businesses have closed, entrepreneurs have fled and cash is running dry. Able-bodied people have no work and retirees have no pensions, since the government in Kiev has stopped paying pensions in rebel-held areas.

A flurry of European diplomacy this week aims to halt the hostilities. But hope for the future is faint in Trudovskoi, a neighborhood where livelihoods revolve around a coal mine forced to shut down by the war.

Ending the fighting will be only the beginning of a long, hard slog back to normal life.

"People just sit at home. The mine is closed. There is nothing to do," said Banina, who lost her own job when the shop where she worked, just beside Trudovskoi bus station, was destroyed in a rocket attack.

She and thousands of others in Donetsk—a city once home to 1 million that as recently as 2012 hosted the prestigious European soccer championship tournament—are forced to resort to whatever handouts are available.

The most dependable source of food aid has been from the charitable foundation of billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, a contentious figure whose vast wealth is founded on the industrial output of this cash-poor but coal-rich region.

But the Akhmetov foundation distribution point for residents of Banina's heavily shelled district was closed Monday due to security concerns. That forced the needy in Trudovskoi to take two buses into the center of Donetsk along roads frequently subjected to rocket barrages.

Despair quickly soured the mood at the distribution center, where workers snap at line-jumpers.

"Whatever the circumstances, have the decency to be civilized!" an Akhmetov foundation employee shouted at a waiting crowd of several dozen, mainly elderly, people.

A short stroll up the road, a grocery chain store nicknamed "Greedy-guts" closed its doors a few days earlier. Most shops are closed.

Bringing the food home is fraught with peril. Only minutes after Banina returned home Monday, a projectile tore into an overpass along her route, killing two motorists.

Deaths like those will only deepen the isolation in Trudovskoi, whose maze of streets is riddled with rebel militia dugouts, making it an evergreen target for the Ukrainian army.

Before leaving the local bus stop for the ten-minute walk home, Banina and Skripko, who helped carry a load of food to be shared among several households, talked with other residents about the morning's shelling. Direct strikes are commonplace, Skripko said.

For most of the last six months, Trudovskoi has been without power and running water. Most of Donetsk is still connected to basic utilities, but repair brigades are reluctant to restore damaged services in areas near the front line—and Trudovskoi is as close to the front as it gets.

Solidarity and ingenuity are the surest ways to survive.

"We support one another every way we can," Skripko said.

Residents with wells in their yards open them up to neighbors without water. Skripko goes around to the houses, feeding scraps to their guard dogs.

If charcoal for heating can be spared, it's shared. It's not safe to forage for firewood in the nearby woods because of stray explosives, said Banina's 18-year old son, Ruslan.

Mobile phones and battery-powered radios are the only link to the outside world for Trudovskoi residents. But charging a phone often requires the taking the bus, which perennially runs a gauntlet of shelling, to reach the nearest friend with electricity. At least it's a break from the mind-numbing monotony of staying in unheated homes in the middle of winter.

To keep those trips to a minimum, Ruslan Banin built a charger able to power up mobile phones with household batteries.

With unemployment rampant, many are tempted by the promise of a salary with the rebel militia. It's not clear, however, how the Russian-backed separatists are able to pay their fighters.

The finance ministry of the self-styled Donetsk People's Republic complained earlier this month of a severe deficit in hryvnia, the Ukrainian currency, caused by what it described as the government's economic blockade against their territory. As a result, it said, payments of benefits and salaries will be made in other currencies—including British pounds, U.S. dollars, Chinese yuan, Japanese yen and euros.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

There's been no sign yet that the rebels are really getting their hands on Chinese yuan or Japanese yen, but those are surely not the most useful currencies in a Ukrainian war zone.

In reality, it is rare to find people in Donetsk who have been paid anything more than cursory sums in any currency at all.

Ruslan Banin said he will not join the rebel militia because his primary goal remains to fend for his mother and his 13-year-old sister. But he said he can understand why others do sign up.

"A friend of mine lost his father, mother and sister in the shelling. What was he supposed to do?" he said.

Environment

Do I need to cut down that tree?

By TOM MOOR
ANGIE'S LIST

Just like people and pets—trees get sick.

Sometimes it's as minor as the common cold (perhaps, a damaged limb), while other ailments (trunk damage) may call for tree removal.

Several factors, such as old age, storm damage or environmental issues, can prematurely damage or kill trees.

But what if you're not sure if a tree is sick, or on its last limb?

"It's kind of like going to the doctor with a cough," says Carl Bogar, owner of Trees For Needs in Phoenix, Arizona. "The doctor has to diagnose it. Just like people, trees get older."

But instead of a doctor, a highly rated arborist can diagnose your tree to determine whether removal is necessary.

The most important reason to remove a tree—instead of saving it—is because of safety risks, highly rated arborists say.

"If there are structural defects and it looks like it could fall over, you want to remove it," Bogar says. "One of the biggest things is: Does it pose a risk? Is it monsoon ready, or would it blow over in heavy rain or a storm? If a tree has been damaged in a storm, it will need to be looked at to see if it can be fixed. If there's a big piece of the trunk damaged, you don't want to consider it."

A damaged tree, Bogar says, invites disease and pathogens that weaken it further. Damaged trees also may have discolored leaves that form odd nodules and lack veins.

A sick tree may decay over the course of several years. Signs of internal decay include mushrooms around the tree's roots or twigs growing from the trunk. The bark may also form bumps or peel off, and fungus may grow around the trunk.

"If there is fungus growing on the tree, it's a sign of damage or decay," says Gary Cooper, a highly rated arborist with Nelson Tree Specialists in Highland, Md.

Cooper says serious root or trunk problems typically warrant removal but notes that proper care will extend the life of a tree.

"A homeowner can help trees by trimming, pruning, sometimes fertilizing and injecting them (with minerals that it may be lacking)," he says.

Pruning is the most important step, Bogar says. Some trees need pruning once a year, while others benefit from two or three prunings—depending on the type of tree.

Arborists recommend pruning in late fall or winter when insects are dormant and sap isn't running. Select pruning increases a tree's wind resistance during storms, decreasing the chance it will fall during a storm.

BRANDON SMITH/ANGIE'S LIST
If you're considering tree replacement, contact a highly rated arborist for an assessment.

Fed report: Time to examine purposely cooling planet idea

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's time to study and maybe even test the idea of cooling the Earth by injecting sulfur pollution high in the air to reflect the sun's heat, a first-of-its-kind U.S. science report said Tuesday.

The idea was once considered fringe—to purposely re-engineer the planet's climate as a last ditch effort to battle global warming with an artificial cloud. No longer.

In a nuanced, two-volume report, the National Academy of Sciences said that the concept should not be acted upon immediately because it is too risky, but it should be studied and perhaps tested outdoors in small projects. It could be a relatively cheap, effective and quick way to cool the planet by mimicking the natural effects on climate of large volcanic eruptions, but scientists concede there could be dramatic and dangerous side effects that they don't know about.

Because warming has worsened and some countries might act unilaterally, scientists said research is needed to calculate the consequences.

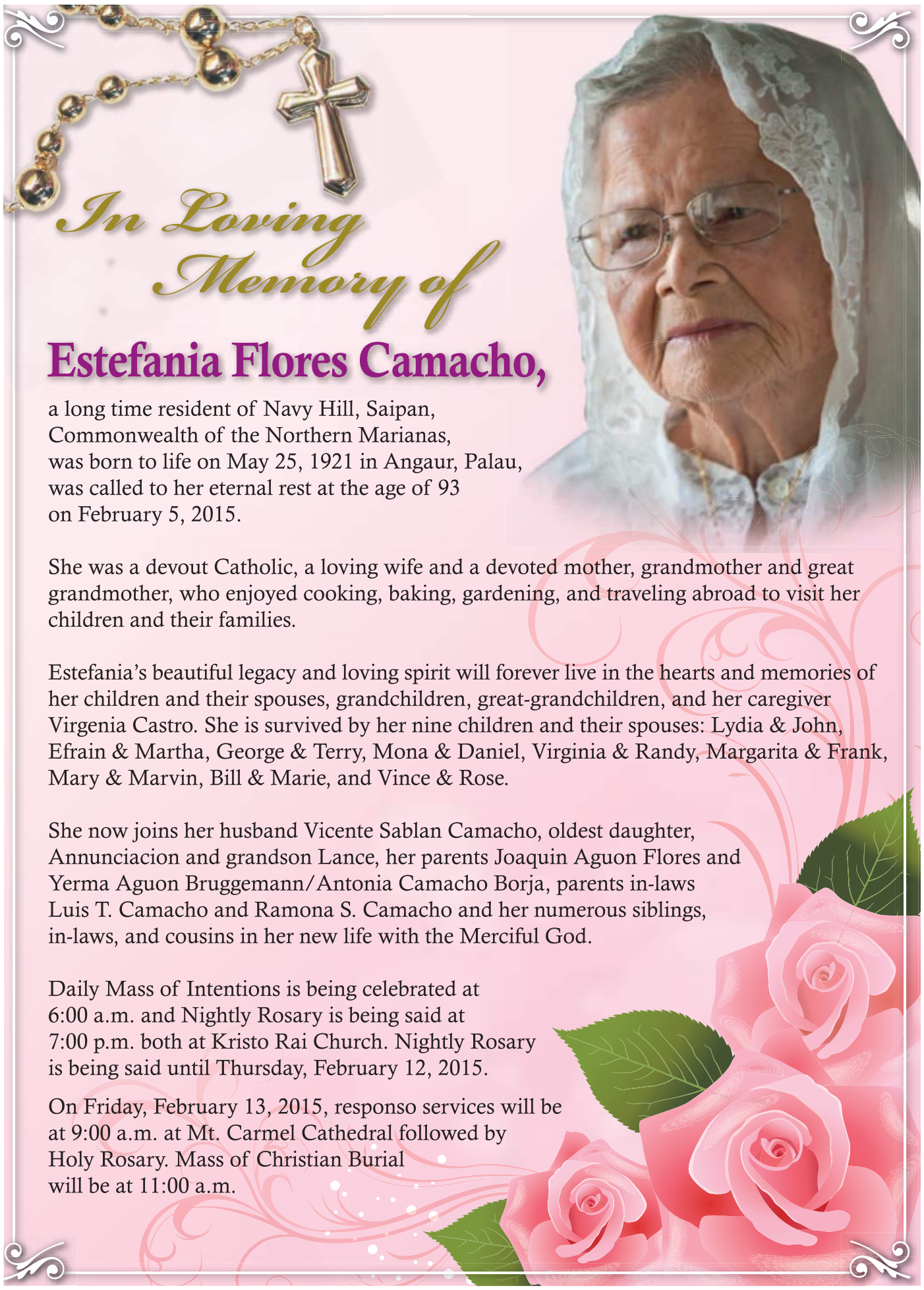
Panel chairwoman Marcia McNutt, editor of the journal Science and former director of the U.S. Geological Survey, said in an interview that the public should read this report "and say, 'This is downright scary.' And they should say, 'If this is our Hail Mary, what a scary, scary place we are in.'"

This is the first time a government-associated science panel talked about the controlled small scale outdoor tests of the artificial cloud concept, called solar radiation management or SRM. But even then panelists downplayed the idea and said it would require some kind of government or other oversight before it is done.

"Yes, small scale outdoor tests might be allowed, but it wouldn't just be in the hands of scientists to decide what's allowable and what's not allowable," McNutt said. "Civil society needs to engage in these discussions where the line is to be drawn."

Some scientists worry that research itself it will make this type of planet hacking more likely to occur.

"This creates a bit of what we call a moral hazard," said Waleed Abdalati, a University of Colorado ice scientist and former NASA chief scientist who co-authored the report. "There will likely come a time we're going to want to know the ramifications of that kind of action. ... You're talking about potentially changing weather and climate. You don't want to do that without as good an understanding as you can possibly have."


In Loving Memory of
Estefania Flores Camacho,
a long time resident of Navy Hill, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas,
was born to life on May 25, 1921 in Angaur, Palau,
was called to her eternal rest at the age of 93
on February 5, 2015.
She was a devout Catholic, a loving wife and a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, and traveling abroad to visit her children and their families.
Estefania's beautiful legacy and loving spirit will forever live in the hearts and memories of her children and their spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and her caregiver Virgenia Castro. She is survived by her nine children and their spouses: Lydia & John, Efrain & Martha, George & Terry, Mona & Daniel, Virginia & Randy, Margarita & Frank, Mary & Marvin, Bill & Marie, and Vince & Rose.
She now joins her husband Vicente Sablan Camacho, oldest daughter, Annunciacion and grandson Lance, her parents Joaquin Aguon Flores and Yerma Aguon Bruggemann/Antonia Camacho Borja, parents in-laws Luis T. Camacho and Ramona S. Camacho and her numerous siblings, in-laws, and cousins in her new life with the Merciful God.
Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at 6:00 a.m. and Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. both at Kristo Rai Church. Nightly Rosary is being said until Thursday, February 12, 2015.
On Friday, February 13, 2015, responso services will be at 9:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m.

Life & Style

Comedy Central says Jon Stewart leaving 'The Daily Show'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jon Stewart, who turned his biting and free-wheeling humor into an unlikely source of news and analysis for viewers of "The Daily Show," will leave as host this year, Comedy Central said Tuesday.

His departure was announced by Comedy Central President Michele Ganeless after Stewart, host of the show since 1999, broke the news to the audience at Tuesday's taping in New York.

"Through his unique voice and vision, `The Daily Show' has become a cultural touchstone for millions of fans and an unparalleled platform for political comedy that will endure for years to come," Ganeless said in a statement.

She called Stewart, 52, a "comic genius." He will remain as host until later this year, she said, but did not specify his exit date or what led to his decision.

Stewart's influence is seen in the work of Stephen Colbert, John Oliver and Larry Wilmore, who went on to earn shows of their own. Other "Daily Show" alumni include Steve Carell, Ed Helms, Josh Gad and new "Saturday Night Live" Weekend Update anchor Michael Che.

"Shocked & sad to see the man who gave me my big break on @TheDailyShow is ready to hang it up," "Frozen" actor Gad posted on Twitter.

Stewart leaves a substantial void for Comedy Central, which has no heir apparent to replace him—unless Oliver bolts his HBO show to return to the fold.

Stewart

For political junkies who depended on Stewart for his acumen as well as comic relief, the 2016 presidential election may be looking bleak.

Reaction was swift from Stewart's past targets as well as admirers.

"Just had the honor of being the great Jon Stewart's guest (on `The Daily Show'), where he announced he's leaving. Emotional night," David Axelrod, former adviser to President Barack Obama, posted on Twitter.

Stewart's departure represents a second big blow for Comedy Central: Colbert left "The Colbert Report" last year to take over for CBS late-night host David Letterman when he retires in May.

Wilmore's "The Nightly Show" replaced Colbert's show.

The Stewart and Colbert shows created templates for a comedic form that offered laughs along with trenchant political and social satire. Authors and politicians were as common as Hollywood celebrities on the self-described "fake news" programs.

Stewart took a several-months-long hiatus in 2013 to direct "Rosewater," a well-reviewed film about an Iranian-born journalist who was imprisoned for 118 days in Tehran and accused of being a spy. The Comedy Central statement did not indicate what his plans are after leaving.

In a November interview with The Associated Press for "Rosewater," Stewart was asked about his future with the Comedy Central show. He replied that the format he works in doesn't matter.

"It's a journey. It's a conversation," he said. "One thing I won't do is write music or sing."

Mindy Kaling blamed the lure of filmdom.

"I knew when Jon Stewart left to direct that movie he was gonna try something like this," Kaling posted on Twitter.

When he returned from his filmmaking break, Stewart played a tape of President Barack Obama urging military action against Syria because of last month's poison gas attack.

"America taking military action against a Middle East regime," Stewart said. "It's like I never left."

In 2010, Stewart and Colbert drew a crowd to the Washington Mall for their Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear. They tackled familiar topics—the partisan gridlock in the nation's capital and the political talk show culture that encouraged it.

Stewart was credited with effectively killing one cable program—CNN's "Crossfire"—when his withering criticism of its partisan squabbling hit a nerve, and CNN soon canceled it.

He poked fun at politicians but spent even more time on the media establishment covering them. The most recent example was Monday night, when he tut-tutted NBC's Brian Williams for being caught exaggerating about the danger he faced covering the Iraq War.

On Tuesday, NBC announced that Williams was being suspended as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay.

Stewart, however, had more withering criticism for the reporters covering Williams, joking that finally the media was criticizing someone for misleading the public during the Iraq War.

Kevin Convey, chair of journalism at Quinnipiac University, called Stewart's announcement a milestone.

His departure is "the end of an era that saw an entire generation turn to a comedian for news and views for the first time—a reign that presaged Twitter and other forms of social media" that provide "equal parts information and attitude to millions," Convey said.

NBC suspends anchorman Brian Williams for 6 months without pay

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC announced Tuesday that it is suspending Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War.

NBC chief executive Steve Burke said Williams' actions were inexcusable and jeopardized the trust he has built up with viewers during his decade as the network's lead anchor. But he said Williams deserved a second chance.

Williams

Williams apologized last week for saying he was in a helicopter that was hit by a grenade while covering the Iraq War in 2003. Instead, another helicopter flying ahead of his was hit, and some veterans involved in the mission called him out on it. The swift public reaction had put NBC News on a crisis footing.

NBC News President Deborah Turness said in a memo that Williams "misrepresented" events that occurred while he was covering the war.

"It then became clear that on other occasions Brian had done the same while telling that story in other venues," Turness said. "This was wrong and completely inappropriate for someone in Brian's position."

Turness said Lester Holt would continue to substitute for Williams as anchor.

While NBC News avoids a backlash from Williams' supporters, the action jeopardizes the network's competitive position. "Nightly News" has been atop the ratings dating back to Tom Brokaw's time in the anchor chair more than a decade ago. But ABC's "World News Tonight," with new anchor David Muir, has been gaining in second place, and Scott Pelley has built a newscast that appeals to traditionalists at CBS.

Besides veterans angered by Williams' false story, his initial apology made him a target of online ridicule with his claim that he misremembered key details. Internet memes jokingly placed Williams at the scene of other events including the Last Supper or the first walk on the moon.

"The penalty is tough, which it should be," said Bill Wheatley, a longtime NBC News executive who now teaches journalism at Columbia University. "When he comes back on the air, it will be up to Brian to demonstrate to his viewers and colleagues that he deserves their trust. I believe that if he works hard and focuses on his journalism, they'll forgive him."

Williams received some key support in the last 24 hours. Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly, frequently a critic of NBC News, suggested on Jimmy Kimmel's show that Williams should keep his job unless more stories come out. Columnist David Brooks in The New York Times suggested there was a need for forgiveness in instances of wrongdoing.

Jon Stewart, of "The Daily Show," who has hosted Williams as a guest 22 times, criticized Williams for vanity. But he had sharper words for media outlets going after Williams.

"I am happy," Stewart said. "Finally, someone is being held to account for misleading America about the Iraq War."

'Fifty Shades' author says she 'fought hard' for her fans

NEW YORK (AP)—"Fifty Shades of Grey" devotees, know this: Whether you end up loving or hating the new movie, author EL James had your back.

"I was thinking about the readers," James says about the sometimes fraught process of adapting her steamy book to the screen—a process that reportedly involved creative differences, to put it gently, with director Sam Taylor-Johnson. Out this Friday for Valentine's weekend, the R-rated film stars Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan.

"I understand what it's like to be in fandom," she says. "I had to fight for a lot of things really hard. And I did." (As a producer on the film as well as the trilogy's author, James had an unusual amount of creative clout.)

James, 51, who wrote the erotic trilogy for her own enjoyment and ended up launching a global phenomenon, sat down over the weekend with The Associated Press to chat about the new film and the fans whose devotion has brought her such stunning commercial success. (Editor's note: Director Taylor-Johnson was not made available for this article.)

AP

In this Feb. 6, 2015 file photo, author EL James attends a special fan screening of "Fifty Shades of Grey" in New York.

AP: What was the hardest thing about adapting your book?

JAMES: My biggest concern was making sure that the sex was really classy and tasteful. It's very coyly written in the books. Women don't like salacious slang. So that was really important to me, to keep it tasteful.

AP: Making the film, were you thinking about your readers, or about a new audience that perhaps hasn't read the book?

JAMES: I was thinking about the readers. There are enough of them! (Laughter.) I mean hopefully we'll bring other people to it as well, of course; there are people who don't read at all. But my readers are the people I've always had in my mind. I understand the disappointment when key scenes are forgotten, or missing, so I was an advocate for them.

AP: Did you have to fight hard for anything?

JAMES: Oh, I had to fight for a lot of things really hard. And I did. (laughs).

AP: Like what?

JAMES: Well, the Red Room (of Pain), for example, wasn't red at first. But it's things like this, within any creative process, when you're the auteur of a whole universe, and then, you're spreading it out ... it's not always going to be aligned with how you saw it. But beneath it all, I was just hoping that we'd have something that the fans would be happy with.

AP: Who's your typical fan?

JAMES: Female. That's it. All ages—from too young, and into their `90s.

AP: Does that mean that men aren't really the right audience?

JAMES: Well, I've had some lovely emails from men. Like one saying, "Thank you for reminding me what it's like to fall in love."

AP: When shooting started, you said you were terrified.

JAMES: Yes! Coming from fandom, I know what it's like when you're let down by certain things, and I just didn't want to do that. What I can say is, we got there in the end.

AP: Was it a difficult process for the actors?

JAMES: I think it was very difficult. But all the really intimate stuff happened at the end of the shoot, which meant that Jamie and Dakota got to know each other, and were far more comfortable with each other. That helped.

AP: This isn't the first movie to have intimate sex scenes.

JAMES: Absolutely! But you guys, the media, are all about the sex. The fact is, it's a love story, and women respond to the love story. The fact that there's a little bit of kinky sex in there is sort of like an added bonus. It's just become sensationalized, because it's like ... Oh my God, women like sex. Yes we do, thank you very much!

AP: Have the books had similar success all over the world?

JAMES: Except in Japan. It's doing OK in Japan, but women don't talk to each other there. They're so private about what goes on in the bedroom. That was interesting.

AP: Are reports true that there was an argument over the final word in the movie?

JAMES: Um, there was a discussion. But I am very happy with the final scene.

AP: Your main character, Anastasia Steele, certainly takes a journey. What has YOUR personal journey been?

JAMES: I think I just realized how strong I am, and how resilient. Actually, I wrote the books really just to entertain myself. The fact that they've entertained a whole lot of other people is just thrilling. My only ambition when I published this (as a small e-book) was to see it one day in a bookshop. So everything else has been like, "Holy crap!" (Editor's note: Actually, though "Holy crap" is a favorite expression of Anastasia Steele, James used a somewhat stronger word.)

Wife of 'American Sniper' Chris Kyle to testify

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—The widow of the former Navy SEAL depicted in the blockbuster film "American Sniper" will be among the first to testify against the man charged with killing her husband.

A day before opening statements in the trial of former Marine Eddie Ray Routh, prosecutors said Tuesday that Chris Kyle's widow, Taya, will take the stand. They also filed documents outlining "bad acts" and other offenses allegedly committed by Routh that they may want to bring before the jury.

Defense attorneys have already said they will pursue an insanity defense for Routh, who family members said suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Routh, 27, faces life in prison without parole if convicted of capital murder in the shooting deaths of Kyle and Kyle's friend Chad Littlefield as the pair tried to help Routh at a shooting range two years ago.

A jury of 10 women and two men was seated Monday from an initial pool of 800 people, despite concerns from defense lawyers about finding an impartial jury because of pretrial publicity. The film based on Kyle's memoir as a sniper who served four tours in Iraq has grossed nearly $300 million.

The intense attention on the case—largely because of Kyle's memoir and the Oscar-nominated film—has also brought renewed focus to the mental struggles former military members face.

Routh was a small arms technician who served in Iraq and was deployed to earthquake-ravaged Haiti before leaving the Marines in 2010.

Authorities say that after the February 2013 shooting of Kyle and Littlefield, Routh drove to his sister's house in Kyle's truck, admitted to the killings and told his sister "people were sucking his soul."

AP

Eddie Ray Routh walks into court for a pretrial proceeding, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015, in Stephenville, Texas.

Cops called to Brown's home week before she was found in tub

ATLANTA (AP)—One of Bobbi Kristina Brown's neighbors reported a domestic dispute at her address the week before she was found face-down in a bathtub, according to a 911 call released Tuesday.

In the call, made on Jan. 23, a man who identified himself as a security guard at the gated community where Brown lives told a dispatcher that one of Brown's neighbors reported a fight at Brown's address.

The guard said the neighbor reported people "hitting each other and swinging" outside the townhome. The guard did not give descriptions of how many people were fighting or who they were. The Associated Press requested a copy of the police report and 911 recording but the materials were not provided.

Brown is the only child of entertainers Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston. She was found face-down in a bathtub at the townhome on Jan. 31 and has been hospitalized in Atlanta since. Police have revealed few details about the circumstances of the case, citing an ongoing investigation.

Three years ago, on Feb. 11, 2012, Houston was found face-down and unresponsive in about a foot of water in a bathtub in the Beverly Hilton hotel just before the Grammys. She later died, and authorities concluded that she had accidentally drowned. Investigators found a dozen prescription drug bottles in the suite and listed heart disease and cocaine use as contributors to her death.

Hugh Jackman prepared heavier Australian accent for new film

NEW YORK (AP)—It's not that often that Hugh Jackman gets a role speaking in his native Australian English, so while working on the upcoming sci-fi thriller "Chappie" he had to get reacquainted with the dialect.

The 46-year old Tony Award winner told The Associated Press on Tuesday that using his own accent "was great but weird."

"I had to practice it because it was way stronger than my natural accent," Jackman said.

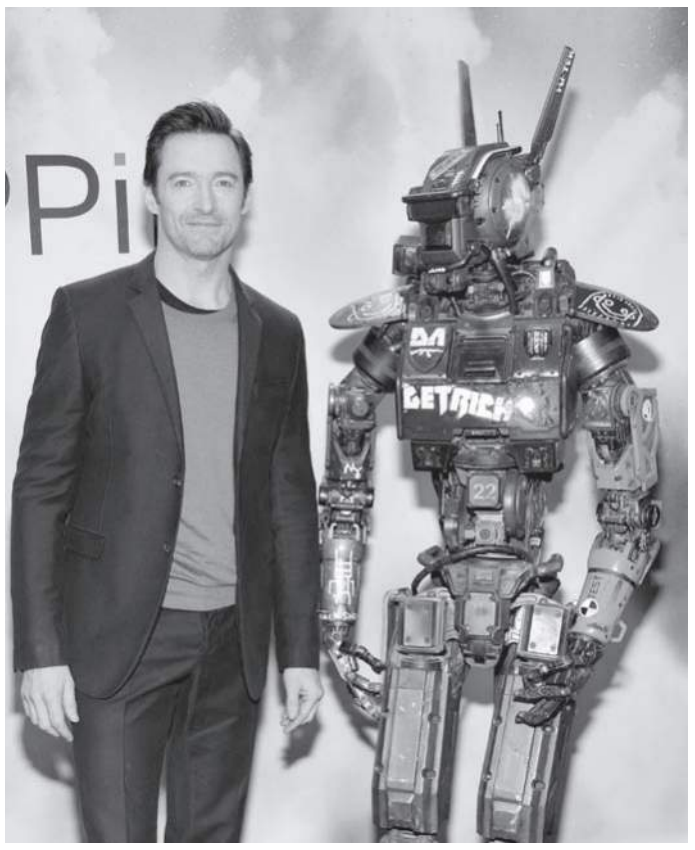
Jackman also admits brushing up on some of the Australian slang that writer-director Neill Blomkamp wrote for the part.

"He used a lot of phrases, and I had to end up Googling the slang," Jackman said. "Neill was coming up with some really cool sayings. ... I was trying to think of more, so I ended up Googling some of them."

"Chappie," which opens in theaters on March 6, tells the story of a fallen police robot that is reprogrammed to think and feel for itself. Jackman said he had fun playing the film's antagonist, an engineer strongly opposed to artificial intelligence.

"We got to create this character that did stretch it a bit. We had a lot of fun with him from the look, his mannerism, the way he talked. At the same time, it was very much based in a reality that was needed for the movie in terms of the voice of caution," Jackman said.

Blomkamp is known for his sci-fi thrillers "District 9" and "Elysium."



AP

Actor Hugh Jackman attends Columbia Pictures' "Chappie" cast photo call at the Crosby Street Hotel on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015, in New York.

'Selma' director hurt by star David Oyelowo's Oscar snub

BERLIN (AP)—"Selma" director Ava DuVernay says she's disappointed that star David Oyelowo's performance as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wasn't recognized with an Oscar nod.

"I was hurt by the fact that David wasn't nominated because I know what it took to get that performance," DuVernay said at the film's premiere in Berlin, adding, "I don't need anyone to tell me that it's one of the best performances of 2014; no one needs to even say that to me because I already know."

Besides best picture, "Selma" is also nominated in the original song category for "Glory," By Common and John Legend.

"It's a song that is going to be in the culture for quite a while," DuVernay said. "Already choirs and students and people are singing this song and it's becoming a protest that I think will last."

She said she was not expecting a best-director bid from the film academy. "There has been no precedent for a black woman to be nominated for best director, so why was it going to change with me?" she said.

Yet the director said she feels honored the film is a contender for the top Oscar.

"We were nominated as best picture, which is nothing to sneeze at," she said. "People act like we dragged out of there with nothing. I mean, best picture."

Court revives copyright lawsuit against singer Frankie Valli

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court on Tuesday revived a copyright lawsuit against Frankie Valli and fellow "Four Seasons" band member Robert Gaudio over "Jersey Boys," the popular musical about the band.

Donna Corbello sued Valli and Gaudio in 2011 for copyright infringement, claiming the musical was based in part on an unpublished autobiography of "Four Seasons" band member Thomas DeVito that her late husband ghost-wrote. She said she deserved to share in the profits from the musical's success.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower court ruling in favor of Valli and Gaudio and sent the case back down for further proceedings. The court said there was contradictory evidence about whether Valli and Gaudio executed an agreement with DeVito to produce the play in time to avoid termination of their ownership rights.

Daniel Mayeda, an attorney for Valli and Gaudio, said he was disappointed in the ruling, but he had not yet decided whether he would appeal.

Corbello is also suing DeVito. The 9th Circuit ruled that DeVito had transferred his copyright in the autobiography to Valli and Gaudio, and therefore had to account to Corbello for any profits he obtained from it.

Couple tries to pretend all is well for daughter's sake

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Mason," and I have been married for 10 years. We have a beautiful 7-year-old daughter and have just found out we are having another girl. The day we learned her gender, Mason dropped a bomb on me. He said he's not in love with me anymore, and it has been eating at him for a while. He said he was too scared to tell me sooner.

He won't talk to anyone and doesn't seem to want to fix it. We both came from broken homes and had always agreed not to do that to our kids. But I can't act like everything is normal under the same roof.

He says he'll stay at his brother's place at night after our daughter goes to sleep. He's at work before she's up for school anyway. We agreed that if she wakes up at night and calls out for him, I should tell her he got "called in to work." Please give me some advice.

BROKEN IN NEVADA

DEAR BROKEN: By the age of 7, your daughter is old enough to recognize tension between her parents. She is also aware enough to comprehend that her father is no longer living there if he's spending his nights elsewhere, particularly if he intends to carry on this charade for any length of time.

You say your husband "won't talk to anyone," but he owes YOU some straight answers. If he hasn't been in love with you "for a while," he shouldn't have fathered a second child with you.

Would his feelings be different if the baby you're carrying was a boy? Could there be another woman involved? Your husband owes it to you and those children to act responsibly and at least try to save his marriage. Running away is not the answer.

In the meantime, my advice is to talk to a lawyer and take your cues from her or him about protecting yourself and your children financially. Doing so does not mean you "must" file divorce papers, but you will have someone who isn't emotionally involved looking out for your interests.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What should a single, straight woman do if she is attracted to and interested in a man she is "pretty sure" is gay? What should she do in the same situation if he is openly gay? Should she ignore her feelings? Tell him?

ATTRACTED TO HIM IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ATTRACTED: If the woman tells her gay friend how she feels, he may be flattered, or it may make him uncomfortable. That's the risk she takes. As to whether she should ignore her feelings, if she wants a romantic partner who can reciprocate her physical attraction, she will have to concentrate on finding someone who is straight. Trust me on that.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine, "Fran," died nine years ago. Prior to her death, I had little interaction with her husband, "Dexter." As a matter of fact, when I met Fran, she was divorced, but she and Dexter re-united.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dexter and I are now in love and are planning to marry. He is 66 and I am 61. A lot of people feel it is wrong for us to be together. Your thoughts, please?

GOING FOR HAPPINESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR GOING: "A lot of people" are unhappy in their lives and judgmental. They sometimes poke their noses into matters that are none of their business. If you and Dexter want to be happy, avoid the naysayers as if they have a virus—because the kind of ill will they spread is contagious.

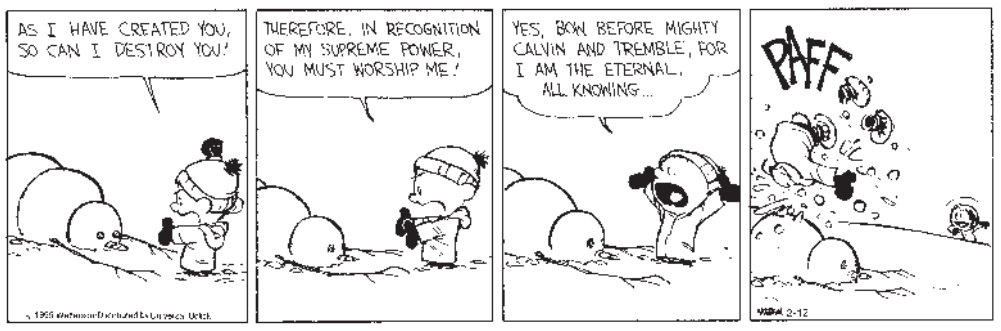
■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AS I HAVE CREATED YOU, SO CAN I DESTROY YOU!
THEREFORE, IN RECOGNITION OF MY SUPREME POWER, YOU MUST WORSHIP ME!
YES, BOW BEFORE MIGHTY CALVIN AND TREMBLE, FOR I AM THE ETERNAL, ALL KNOWING...
PAFF

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

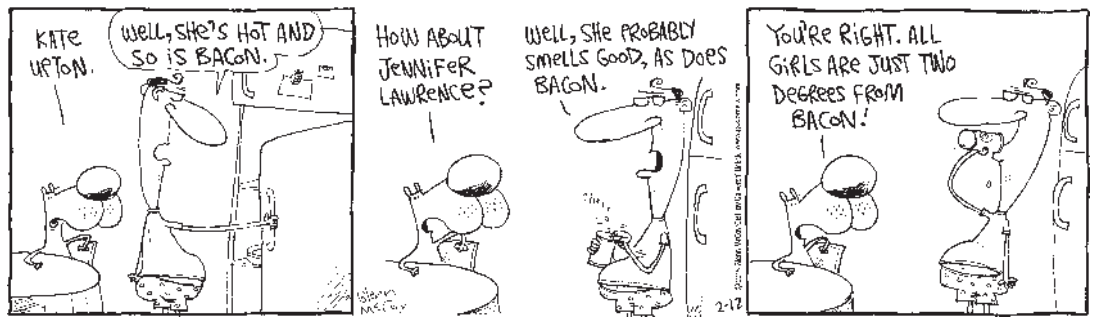
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M NOT SUCH A TERRIBLE ARTIST, KATY. MAYBE I CAN GIVE YOU A LESSON.
IT'S WORTH A SHOT.
LET'S BOTH DRAW A PONY.
OKAY.
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
DRAW DRAW
THIS IS GOOD FATHER/ DAUGHTER BONDING TIME.
NOT IF YOU CALL ATTENTION TO IT. THEN IT'S WEIRD.
DRAW
SKETCH DRAW

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


KATE UPTON.
WELL, SHE'S HOT AND SO IS BACON.
HOW ABOUT JENNIFER LAWRENCE?
WELL, SHE PROBABLY SMELLS GOOD, AS DOES BACON.
YOU'RE RIGHT. ALL GIRLS ARE JUST TWO DEGREES FROM BACON!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

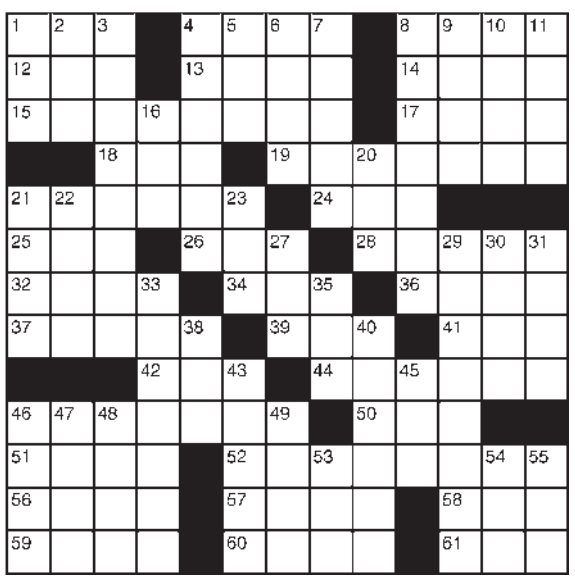
ACROSS
1 Tobacco amount
4 Movie-goer's memento
8 One of the Three Bears
12 Vanity
13 Zilch
14 — -friendly
15 Missouri's state trees
17 Hard to find
18 Sticky stuff
19 Solver of the Sphinx's riddle
21 Light wind
24 Egyptian boy king
25 Always, in verse
26 Mess up
28 Tin star
32 Abound
34 Listener
36 The Big Easy, for short
37 Extempo-rize
39 Oktober-fest souvenir
41 Under-stand
42 Pouch
44 Points a finger at
46 24-Across, e.g.
50 Eggs
51 Doozie
52 Night shift of a sort
56 Hebrew month
57 "In — -horse open sleigh"
58 Public radio's Flatow
59 Knighted woman
60 Boot attach-ment
61 Demure

DOWN
1 Marry
2 Past
3 Humor-ous verse
4 Nap
5 Exces-sively
6 Loosen
7 Sur-round
8 Strict moralist
9 W/O delay
10 Machu Picchu site
11 Belliger-ent deity
16 Travail
20 Tweak the sound-track
21 Software test version
22 Clarinet-ist's item
23 Previous to
27 Aries
29 Opinion-ated
30 Jane Lynch's show
31 Chows down
33 Blunder, as a ref might
35 Massage
38 Sheepish remark?
40 Sullen look
43 Musical endings
45 Actress Gardner
46 Begged
47 Luau entertain-ment
48 Grad
49 Earring type
53 Bearded beast
54 — -Magnon
55 Fodder for Dobbin

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	P	A	■	L	E	A	F	■	C	R	E	W
L	I	S	■	U	R	G	E	■	U	N	T	O
A	L	I	■	G	R	E	E	N	B	A	C	K
B	F	F	O	G	■	■	I	F	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	.	I	S	T	■	O	S	C	A	R
G	R	E	E	N	I	E	A	■	M	O	R	E
O	U	T	■	G	A	R	B	S	■	M	I	L
S	L	A	V	■	G	R	E	E	N	B	A	Y
H	E	_	O	T	■	A	E	R	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	Y	E	S	■	■	F	R	A	M	E
G	R	E	E	N	C	A	R	D	■	W	A	S
P	F	R	U	■	U	N	D	O	■	I	I	P
A	V	E	R	■	D	I	A	M	■	S	L	Y

Yesterday's answer 2-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brad Keselowski, 31; Christina Ricci, 35; Darren Aronofsky, 46; Josh Brolin, 47.

Happy Birthday: Gullibility can lead you astray. Focus on facts, but use your creative imagination to come up with ideas and plans that will distinguish you from any competition you face. Being a little reserved and secretive will be to your benefit. Keeping debt under control and setting reasonable goals will build a solid base for your future projects. Your numbers are 1, 3, 14, 21, 28, 34, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take pride in what you do, but don't let anyone take advantage of your skills. You don't need to prove yourself to anyone else. Work diligently toward your goals. Don't spend unnecessarily or get involved in a risky venture. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Try not to overreact or take on too much. If you allow your emotions to lead the way, you will make a costly mistake. You may be able to persuade those working under you to do things your way, but superiors will push back. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expect to face opposition if you get involved in a cause involving people from different walks of life. Listen carefully, but don't agree to do something if the boundaries are not set. Demands coupled with insincere gestures of friendliness are apparent. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put in the time required to get the results you are looking for. Someone you care about will reciprocate if you send the right signals. Share your thoughts and make plans for the future. An idea you have will help you excel. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make the changes that will position you for advancement, and don't lose sight of your goals. Get involved with people who share your positions on worldly matters, and it will boost your plans to bring about worthwhile changes. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Trouble is brewing where personal and business partnerships are concerned. Your status is on the line, leaving you in an impossible position if you aren't ready to make a decision. Follow the rules and move forward cautiously. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Approach domestic matters with a serious tone. Offer solid solutions. A change in the pecking order at home will take place if you are adamant about your position and what you are prepared to do in order to get your way. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stick to your game plan and don't allow yourself to fold under pressure. Love is highlighted, and you should be able to find common ground with the right partner. Ask pointed questions and you'll uncover important information. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keeping secrets will pay off in the end. A change of plans shouldn't make you feel obligated to share your thoughts. Listen, observe and follow the path that is best for you. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Charity begins at home. Don't lend, borrow or fall victim to someone with a get-rich-quick scheme. Be responsible and avoid taking on unnecessary debt. Find out all the facts before you lend someone a helping hand. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will face emotional resistance. Listen to what's being said, and try to find common ground without jeopardizing your integrity, beliefs or future plans. Strive for equality and it will make a difference to the outcome of a partnership. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Honor your promises, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Avoid letting your emotions take over, resulting in a foolish mistake. Make amends for past mishaps so you can feel free to move forward with your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, aggressive and emotional. You are unique and fearless.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	3		2			
		3		1		5	6	
7	6						9	
8								1
	2						8	
3								2
	5						2	7
	3	7		5		1		
			9		4	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	6	9	2	4	8	5	3
8	5	2	6	3	1	9	7	4
4	3	9	5	8	7	6	2	1
2	7	4	3	1	8	5	9	6
5	6	1	2	7	9	4	3	8
9	8	3	4	6	5	7	1	2
6	4	7	1	5	2	3	8	9
1	9	5	8	4	3	2	6	7
3	2	8	7	9	6	1	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/11

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AUSTRALIAN LAMB CHOPS **Solution: 8 letters**

K	O	O	C	B	C	J	D	S	W	E	E	T	Y	E
B	I	R	O	R	S	U	M	E	A	T	S	O	E	T
R	T	S	A	O	R	I	T	G	C	I	S	N	R	A
U	U	R	T	W	E	C	M	S	O	I	O	E	K	N
S	H	B	A	N	P	E	B	M	T	B	D	C	A	I
H	C	E	S	R	P	S	R	R	E	L	A	R	E	R
L	C	U	R	Y	E	N	O	H	U	R	D	U	C	A
U	C	I	B	B	P	H	T	O	R	O	D	S	I	M
F	I	S	R	E	S	F	H	I	L	S	E	T	L	U
R	M	K	O	L	F	S	R	L	S	E	D	I	S	S
O	A	I	I	O	P	E	D	L	I	M	I	P	A	T
V	S	L	L	I	D	C	I	L	R	A	G	I	U	A
A	L	L	C	N	N	E	S	I	A	R	B	L	T	R
L	A	E	E	N	I	W	E	L	L	Ⓨ	Ⓡ	Ⓕ	E	D
F	B	T	C	R	I	S	P	R	E	H	E	A	T	G

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 2/12

Added, Balsamic, Braise, Broil, Broth, Brown, Brush, Coat, Cook, Crisp, Crust, Cube, Cuts, Diced, Fall Off the Bone, Flavorful, Flip, Fry, Garlic, Herbs, Honey, Juices, Loin, Marinate, Meat, Mild, Moist, Mustard, Pepper, Preheat, Rack, Rare, Rib, Rich, Roast, Rosemary, Rubs, Sauté, Sear, Short, Shoulder, Sides, Simmer, Skillet, Slice, Soy, Spice, Sweet, Tender, Well, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Central Perk

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/ embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Multi tasking. Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT SERVCIES

Do you want your money to grow?? Let Premiere Capital Investments, LLC. get you there. Specializing in stocks and options investments. Call Wallace at (670) 484-4071 or (671) 687-5863 and invest NOW!!

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
(1) Auto Mechanic

- High School Graduate
- With at least one (1) year experience in this field
- Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience

All interested applicants may personally drop your resume and recent police clearance at
DPA CARMART
San Antonio, Saipan
or email us at: dpacarmart@gmail.com
Cell No. 287-8688

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

4 Bedroom 2 Bath House for Lease

- Fenced in Yard
- Land: 2,279 sq. meters
- House: 1,479 sq. feet
- $130,000 (55 year lease)
- Fee Simple Available

Call Alexandra 989 2502

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers
to apply for the following positions:

GARDENER

Minimum one (1) year related work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

CARPENTER

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

1 - ENGINEER/ FOREMAN
Salary: $ 1,800.00 / Month
Must have 10 yrs. experience.

1 - H.E. MECHANIC / OPERATOR
Salary: $ 6.50 / hour
Must have 5 yrs. experience.

Success International Inc.
Lower Base, Saipan.
(670) 322-1988

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:

- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Call 235-NEWS

Sharky's BAR AND GRILL

in Garapan is hiring the following positions

2 Bartenders: Must be 21+, able to perform all duties of a bartender, must be able to speak English and/or any secondary language (preferably Korean, Japanese, and/or Chinese), minimum of 1 year experience. You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

6 Waitress/Servers: Must be 18+, able to perform all duties of a waitress, must be able to speak and write English and/or any secondary language (preferably Korean, Japanese, and/or Chinese), no experience necessary. You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

3 Cook: Must be 21+, able to perform all duties of a cook, must be able to speak English, minimum of 2 year experience necessary. Preferred specialties are BBQ and American/Local style dishes. You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

1 Sushi Chef: Must be 21+, able to perform all duties of a sushi chef, must be able to speak English, minimum 1 year experience necessary, must be knowledgeable in local fishes.
You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

1 Car-washer/Driver: Must be able to drive with clean driving records, must be able to drive manual and transmissions. Primary duty will be washing cars and moving cars between car lots.
Must be able to speak and write English. Local hire only
Salary: Current minimun wage

All parties interested, please email:
sharkys@experiencesaipan.com
Please pick up your application between 12-6 pm (M-F) at the old Volcano Bar, currently Pretty Car Rental located between "I Love Saipan" and "Duty Free" in Garapan, or call (287-8893) for more information.

WE ARE HIRING NOW!

masterpiece
CREATIVITY LIVES HERE

PUBLICIST/MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Advertising agency is in search of a dynamic, Saipan-based Publicist/Marketing Executive to join our Saipan office. In the area of public relations, the successful Candidate must possess excellent written and oral communications skills, as well as expertise in the areas of media relations and placements, interview coordination and executive coaching. In their Marketing capacity, the successful Candidate will serve as liaison between agency and client. This will require superior organizational skills in order to handle a high volume of workflow and translate the agency's work to other executives and departments within the organization, as well as to local vendors.

Minimum Bachelor of Arts in Marketing, Communications or Public Relations required. Salary & Benefits commensurate with experience. If interested, email cover letter and resume along with salary requirements to getcreative@masterpieceadvertising.com.

WHATZIT Solution: Foreign language

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LANG4UAGE

WHATZIT? © 2015 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Alex Rodriguez meets with Yankees, apologizes for actions

AP

In this Sept. 14, 2013, file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez heads to the dugout during their 5-1 loss to the Boston Red Sox in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston.

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez met with top New York Yankees officials on Tuesday and apologized to the team as he prepares to report to spring training following his season-long suspension for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract.

A joint statement from the Yankees and Rodriguez said the 39-year-old met at Yankee Stadium with owner Hal Steinbrenner, team president Randy Levine, general manager Brian Cashman and assistant general manager Jean Afterman.

Rodriguez was accompanied by lawyer Jim Sharp.

"Alex initiated the meeting and apologized to the organization for his actions over the past several years," the statement said. "There was an honest and frank discussion on all of the issues. As far as the Yankees are concerned, the next step is to play baseball in spring training."

A person familiar with the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity because the release of additional details was not authorized, said the meeting lasted about 90 minutes.

The person said the Yankees said they accepted the apology but maintained that doesn't mean the team has forgotten about Rodriguez's actions over recent years. Team officials also said Rodriguez has to make up many things to many people.

New York opens spring training on Feb. 20 at Tampa, Florida, and Rodriguez is due to report with position players and start workouts on Feb. 26. Yankees officials told him he will be treated like any other player at spring training.

The Yankees also said their preference was that Rodriguez meet with media before the team opens spring training.

In addition, New York told Rodriguez the team does not feel obligated to give him any of up to $30 million potentially due for historic achievements, part of a marketing deal reached at the time of his $275 million, 10-year contract in December 2007. The marketing agreement calls for $6 million payments for up to five milestone accomplishments designated by the Yankees. Each payment is due within 15 days of designation and is in exchange for rights such as using Rodriguez's name and image in selling licensed goods.

At the time of the marketing agreement, those accomplishments were contemplated to be tying the home run totals of Willie Mays (660), Babe Ruth (714), Hank Aaron (755) and Barry Bonds (762), and breaking Bonds' major league record. Rodriguez has 654 home runs.

A failure to declare a milestone and make a payment likely would trigger a grievance on Rodriguez's behalf by the Major League Baseball Players Association.

A three-time AL MVP who turns 40 in July, Rodriguez faces an uncertain future with the Yankees, who have said they plan to shift him from third base to designated hitter. He has not played a full season since 2007 because of leg injuries, operations on both hips and the suspension. Still, he is owed $61 million for the final three seasons of his contract.

Rodriguez's public history with performance-enhancing drugs stretches back six years.

Following a report by Sports Illustrated, Rodriguez admitted in 2009 that he used banned PEDs while with Texas from 2001-03. At a news conference attended by manager Joe Girardi and many of his teammates under a tent behind the third-base side of the stands at spring training in February 2009, Rodriguez said "I didn't think they were steroids" but also admitted "I knew we weren't taking Tic Tacs."

"The only thing I ask from this group today and the American people is to judge me from this day forward," he said then. "That's all I can ask for."

The Miami New Times accused of him in January 2013 of using banned substances he obtained from the Biogenesis of America clinic, and then-baseball Commissioner Bud Selig suspended Rodriguez for 211 games in August 2013 for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract.

Rodriguez asked the union to file a grievance that led to a hearing, and the penalty was cut to the 2014 season by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz, who concluded there was "clear and convincing evidence" Rodriguez used three banned substances and twice tried to obstruct the sport's drug investigation. The penalty was the most severe in the history of baseball's drug agreement and cost Rodriguez just over $22 million of his $25 million salary.

After suing Major League Baseball and the union in federal court in an attempt to overturn the discipline, Rodriguez dropped that action and accepted the penalty.

He also sued Yankees team physician Dr. Christopher Ahmad and New York-Presbyterian Hospital in October 2013, accusing them of mishandling his medical care during the 2012 AL playoffs, then withdrew the case last June.

Rodriguez met last month with new baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, who headed the investigation that led to the suspension.

Saints, Pelicans owner Benson says he wants quick exam

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Hours after a New Orleans judge ordered that he undergo psychiatric examinations by three experts, Saints and Pelicans owner Tom Benson issued a statement Tuesday saying he wants to do that as soon as possible as he fights an effort by his daughter and her children to have him declared incompetent.

New Orleans Civil District Judge Kern Reese ordered that Benson be examined by March 13. Each side must choose one medical expert and they will agree upon a third.

Renee Benson and her children, Rita and Ryan LeBlanc, filed the lawsuit questioning the 87-year-old billionaire's competency after the three were abruptly fired from leadership roles in the sports franchises and after Benson announced that his wife, Gayle, would control the teams after he dies. The suit says Gayle Benson, who married Benson 10 years ago after the death of his second wife, has "systematically isolated" him from family, friends and advisers.

"We're disappointed," Benson attorney Phil Wittmann told reporters immediately after the hearing. He had argued in court that the efforts of Benson's child and her offspring were "the very embodiment of a fishing expedition" by relatives who were unhappy with competent and reasoned decisions by Benson.

"Your honor, Tom Benson changed his mind, and he had every right to do so," Wittmann argued.

Neither Benson nor his estranged relatives attended Tuesday's hearing. Randy Smith, lawyer for Renee Benson and her children, said it was "telling" that Benson has not attended court proceedings and has fought a court-ordered expert's examination.

"We just want an independent evaluation," Smith said outside the courthouse. "That's what my clients want because they're very concerned about the health of their father and grandfather

Benson responded later with a three-paragraph statement that he was determined to fight the suit and that his decisions were sound and in the best interest of his businesses.

"I have instructed my attorney Phil Wittmann to bring forth this medical exam of me as soon as possible," he said. "I look forward to taking this test. I respect the Honorable Kern Reese's decision today, as I know he had a tough decision to make, but I look forward to putting this behind us and moving on."

The case marks the second time in a year that an NBA owner's mental capacity has been publicly questioned. After former Clippers owner Donald Sterling's disparaging remarks about blacks became public last year, his wife had him removed from the family trust that owned the team, which was later sold, because of questions about his mental competence.

Tom Benson has owned the Saints since 1985 and bought his NBA team in 2012, changing the name from Hornets to Pelicans in 2013. Rita LeBlanc, 38, has worked for the Saints in various roles since 2001, rising during that time to the level of part owner and executive. But weeks ago she was from removed the clubs. Her mother and brother, who also had been listed as part owners, were also removed from executive roles with the clubs. And Benson announced that his wife would control the teams upon his death.

Documents filed in the case indicated that the elder Benson broke off contact with Renee, Rita and Ryan in late December.

Reese's ruling came a day after a Texas judge in a parallel case appointed two receivers to oversee a trust Benson established in that state for his daughter and her family. That order came over the objection of Tom Benson's Texas lawyers.

The Texas case involves control of assets in the San Antonio area, which include auto dealerships, a bank and ranch property. It does not involve the pro teams in Louisiana, but is part of the dispute that has come to attention the past month.

Smith referenced Texas Judge Tom Rickhoff's ruling in his arguments to Reese. "Judge Rickhoff, after hearing two days of evidence, expressed serious concern about the vulnerability of Tom Benson," Smith said, before being pointedly told by Reese that the trust issue was a separate matter.

Smith had asked Reese to appoint Dr. Ted Bloch III, a psychiatrist, to examine Benson. Reese said Bloch and an expert chosen by Benson's lawyers (they did not make their choice known Tuesday) plus a third expert agreed upon by both sides must examine Benson by March 13.

The family feud has generated buzz on social media and on the street in New Orleans.

"I think it's a shame that this family, this family business and its issues has to play out in the public," Charles Stiebing of New Orleans, a Saints fan clad in black and gold athletic gear, said as he ran laps around the Superdome last week. "It's very sad that all this would ever come out."

Harden has 20 points in 4th quarter, Rockets beat Suns

PHOENIX (AP)—James Harden scored 20 of his 40 points in the fourth quarter and the Houston Rockets pulled away to beat the Phoenix Suns 127-118 on Tuesday night.

Josh Smith added 20 in the highest-scoring game of the season for the Rockets, who trailed 89-88 at the end of the third quarter after Phoenix rallied from an early 18-point deficit.

Eric Bledsoe scored 32, one shy of his career high, for the Suns, who enter the All-Star break losers of five of their last six.

Harden ended the first and second quarters with a 3-pointer, then opened the fourth with a four-point play that put the Rockets ahead for good. He scored eight in a row during a 2 1/2 minute stretch late in the fourth. He scored 45—one shy of his career high—in a loss to Portland on Sunday and has six games of at least 40 points this season.

Houston, winner of seven of nine, has one game before the break, Wednesday night against the Clippers in Los Angeles.

In the fourth quarter, Harden, the NBA's leading scorer at more than 27 points per game, made seven of 10 shots—most on drives to the basket, was 1 of 3 on 3-pointers, and sank all five of his free throws. He also matched his season high with 12 rebounds in the game.

The Rockets shot 75 percent (15 of 20) in the fourth.

The 127 points were the most Phoenix has allowed in a non-overtime game this season.

Goran Dragic added 20 points for the Suns.

With Phoenix leading 89-88 to start the fourth, Harden sank a 3 from the top of the key, fell on his behind, as he does on almost every jumper, and Marcus Morris was called for the foul. Harden made the free throw and the four-point play put Houston up by three.

Bledsoe's 3 cut the Houston lead to 96-95, then Smith and Corey Brewer made 3s, Brewer scored on a rebound, Harden made three free throws after being fouled on a 3-point try, and the Rockets were up 104-95.

Down by 18 at the end of the third quarter and nine at the half, the Suns opened the second half with a 20-3 outburst. The Rockets missed nine shots in a row and Bledsoe's 19-footer put the Suns up 81-73 with 5:38 left in the quarter.

Houston regrouped for a 15-5 run and Smith's dunk on a pass inside from Harden put the Rockets back on top 85-83.

Phoenix's Gerald Green and Houston's Kostas Papanikolaou traded 3s before Isaiah Thomas' 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left gave the Suns their one-point lead entering the fourth quarter.

Grizzlies 95, Nets 86

In Memphis, Tenn., Zach Randolph had 19 points and Marc Gasol added 14 and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Six Grizzlies finished in double figures as Memphis won its 14th of the last 16. Courtney Lee had 15 points, Beno Udrih scored 13 and Tony Allen finished with 12.

The Nets lost for the seventh time in their last 10.

Mason Plumlee and Alan Anderson each had 15 points for the Nets and Plumlee also grabbed 14 rebounds.

Memphis held a double-digit lead through most of the game until the Nets tightened it up in the fourth quarter.

Bulls 104, Kings 86

In Chicago, Pau Gasol continued his strong play with 26 points and 16 rebounds, Tony Snell had a career-high 24 and Derrick Rose added 23 for the Chicago Bulls.

It was Gasol's NBA-best 34th double-double of the season. He now has 13 straight.

Snell was 9 for 11 from the field, including 4 for 6 on 3-pointers. His previous high was 20 points.

The trio combined to go 30 for 43 (69.8 percent) from the field as Chicago (33-20) won its third straight.

The Kings (18-33) have dropped 12 of 14. Rudy Gay led Sacramento with 24 points, while DeMarcus Cousins added 15 points and eight rebounds.

Pistons 106, Hornets 78

In Charlotte, N.C., Greg Monroe had 23 points and 12 rebounds, D.J. Augustin added 18 points and the Detroit Pistons handed the Charlotte Hornets their third straight loss.

Monroe, who had 14 double-doubles in January to tie a franchise record, was dominant inside and on the drive when the Pistons build a 23-point lead at the end of the third quarter. They coasted to an easy win.

Jodie Meeks and Anthony Tolliver each had 16 points for the Pacers, who are 16-9 over their last 25 games.

Nuggets 106, Lakers 96

In Los Angeles, Ty Lawson had season-highs of 32 points and 16 assists and Denver snapped a six-game losing skid.

Darrell Arthur added 15 points, and Wilson Chandler and J.J. Hickson had 13 points each for the Nuggets, whose four-game road losing streak ended.

Carlos Boozer scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Wayne Ellington added 18 points for the Lakers, who fell to 0-5 this month.

Jeremy Lin and Wesley Johnson added 12 points each for the Lakers.

AP

Houston Rockets' James Harden points up after scoring a basket against the Phoenix Suns during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 23, 2015, in Phoenix.

Heat guard Dwyane Wade will not play in All-Star Game

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade wanted to play in the All-Star Game and wants to be as healthy as possible for the stretch run of the season.

So playing this weekend was deemed an unneeded risk.

The Miami Heat guard announced Tuesday he will not play in the NBA's midseason showcase, a decision made in an abundance of caution as he continues recovering from his latest hamstring injury. Wade has missed Miami's last six games and will remain inactive when the Heat close their pre-All-Star schedule in Cleveland on Wednesday night.

"I felt like this was best," Wade said. "I wasn't going to play much either way. I think with the circumstances, I think the smartest thing to do is let someone else come in and really enjoy the All-Star experience. ... I think I owe it to the Heat fans to at least play in a Heat jersey first than go out there in the All-Star Game and play a couple minutes."

Later Tuesday, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver revealed that Atlanta's Kyle Korver will be Wade's replacement on the Eastern Conference roster. Wade said he thought Milwaukee's Brandon Knight, who was born in Miami, would have been a fitting choice.

"I think it'd be fitting for a Miami guy to take an honorary Miami guy's spot," Wade said of Knight. "He's done a great job of leading that team."

Korver, who was All-Star weekend bound anyway for the 3-point contest, is the record-tying fourth Atlanta player on the East roster. The Hawks are the runaway leaders in the East.

SIDEBAR

Hornets get Mo Williams from Wolves for Gary Neal

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets bolstered their roster Tuesday for a playoff push by acquiring guard Mo Williams from the Minnesota Timberwolves for guard Gary Neal.

The Hornets will also get shooting guard Troy Daniels. They will send a 2019 second-round pick to the Timberwolves.

The 32-year-old Williams is averaging 12.2 points and 6.4 assists per game in 41 games, including 19 starts for the injured Ricky Rubio. He is second on the team shooting 34.7 percent from 3-point range. Williams, now in his 12th NBA season, was named Western Conference Player of the Week last month after scoring a career-high 52 points on Jan. 13 at Indiana.

He will give the Hornets a reliable replacement for Kemba Walker, who remains out at least another month while recovering from knee surgery. Brian Roberts has been filling in as the starting at point guard for the Hornets with mixed results.

Charlotte started the day 22-29 and tied with Miami for seventh in the Eastern Conference, but the Hornets surrendered double-digit leads in losses to Philadelphia and Indiana. Team officials said Williams will not arrive in time to participate in Tuesday night's game against the Detroit Pistons.

"When Kemba went out with an injury and had surgery, one that we looked actively for was a high level point guard that could give us some needed depth," general manager Rich Cho said. "We're thrilled to have Mo in the fold. He gives us a lot of experience. He gives us scoring. He gives us a lot of leadership. We're just really excited to add Mo."

Williams is on expiring contract, while Daniels is set to earn $947,276 next season.

Williams has played in 750 career games with six teams—Utah, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Portland, Minnesota and the Los Angeles Clippers. He is averaging 13.3 points, 5.0 assists and 2.8 rebounds in 29.7 minutes for his career, while shooting 43.6 percent from the field for his career, including 38.2 percent from beyond the 3-point arc.

Coach Steve Clifford said the move will allow the Hornets to rest the overworked Roberts and allow Lance Stephenson to move back to playing shooting guard. Stephenson and Neal had been splitting time as a backup point guard.

"We need to get guys back to the positions they're most comfortable playing. So this gives us another quality guy there who can play the point," Clifford said.

Williams thanked the Timberwolves on Twitter on Tuesday: "I really enjoyed my time here. My teammates and coaches all the way up to the owner was fantastic. I really appreciate it (hash)goodluckinthefuture"

Daniels is in his second NBA season, having played in 41 career games for Houston and Minnesota and averages 3.4 points on 35.8 percent shooting from the field. He began this season in Houston before being traded to Minnesota on Dec. 19 as part of a three-team deal.

The 30-year-old Neal is a score-first guard averaging 9.9 points per game this season. Neal was acquired last February by the Hornets in a trade with Milwaukee. Neal played in 43 games this season for the Hornets, averaging 9.6 points, 2.2 rebounds and 1.9 assists in 21.7 minutes.

"This was a difficult decision because of what Mo brought to our team and the impact he had on our young guys," Wolves head coach Flip Saunders said. "As a coach, you wanted to keep him because of his professionalism and understanding of what you wanted out of him as a player. ... On the other side, we knew we were moving in a different direction with our youth so we felt it was in our best interest to make the deal."

Genesis Cup returns, kicks off Feb. 22

The Genesis Cup is back with eight teams competing in the revived league that will kick off on Feb. 22 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Dubbed as the Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League, the caging that was last held in 2008 is organized by Association of Filipino Pastors, Saipan with its president Noel Puno named as commissioner.

Puno said the eight competing teams this season are Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Gideon, Samuel, Caleb, and Joshua. Daniel won the last championship in the Genesis Cup after beating Isaiah in the finals, 92-76.

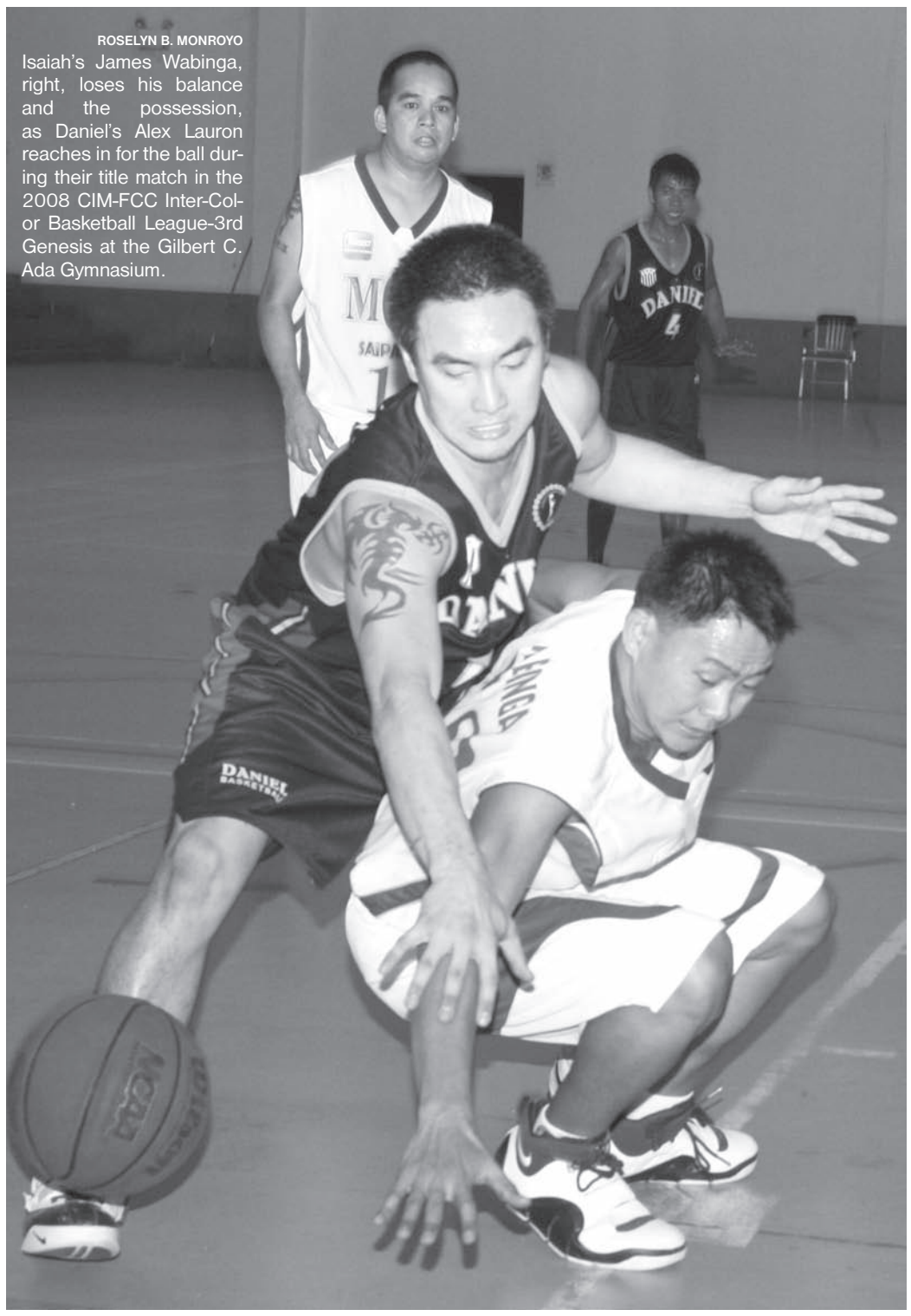
"We are bringing back the league to promote camaraderie among the 12 church members of AFPS. We also want to help them stay fit and active through basketball," Puno said.

The league will have its opening ceremony at 3pm, while games will be played every Monday and Friday, starting at 6pm. A players general meeting will be held this Sunday at 3pm at the Jesus Is Lord Church. League ground rules, awards, distribution of uniforms, and other competition matters will be discussed at the meeting.

A series of tune-up games has started last month to prepare the participating teams, whose players are members of JIL, Cornerstone Christian Church, Grace Christian, Saipan Community Church, Filipino Community Church, Life in the Son, Upper Room International Ministry, Marianas Christian Church, Victorious Christian Church, Saipan Bible Fellowship, Christian Bible Fellowship, and Marianas Bible Fellowship Center. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Isaiah's James Wabinga, right, loses his balance and the possession, as Daniel's Alex Lauron reaches in for the ball during their title match in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Buster Douglas: 'Belief' led him to stunning upset of Tyson

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An uppercut and three follow-up punches made James "Buster" Douglas a household name. And 25 years later, the brief heavyweight champion is still pleased his knockout of Mike Tyson ranks among the biggest upsets in sports.

"Being crowned champion was a dream for me," Douglas said of his Feb. 11, 1990 upset. "To achieve that was the ultimate. It was awesome."

A promising if enigmatic fighter, Douglas was given almost no chance of hanging around long with the undefeated heavyweight champion in their title fight in Tokyo. The bout was considered a tuneup for Tyson before an anticipated match with rising star Evander Holyfield.

In fact, the day before Tyson fought Douglas, promoter Don King called a news conference to discuss the dates and terms of that showdown. Douglas took note.

Douglas was a terrific athlete—he played small-college basketball—but was considered less than committed to boxing despite a 29-4-1 record as a professional. The son of club fighter Bill "Dynamite" Douglas, he had shown glimpses of promise but had also displayed a lack of heart and discipline at other times.

But roughly three weeks before the opening bell with Tyson, the person who believed in him the most, his mother, Lula Pearl, died.

Reminded this week that no one had thought he had a chance against Tyson, Douglas hesitated before saying: "Yeah, but she did."

Tyson was boxing's hope and its bane, a street tough who stepped into the ring in simple black trunks, black shoes and a sheared-off T-shirt. His temperament was erratic, at best. He could be emotional when he spoke of his late mentor and friend, Cus D'Amato, or he could also be raw, brutal and crude.

In the ring, he was a force of nature, always striding closer, always hurling punches, never yielding.

He was 37-0 with 33 knockouts heading into the fight. Las Vegas oddsmakers made him a 42-1 favorite to do his wrecking-ball thing against Douglas.

They weren't alone. Ed Schuyler, a boxing writer for The Associated Press, was stopped at customs on his way into Japan. The customs officer asked Schuyler how long he would be working in Japan.

"About 90 seconds," Schuyler deadpanned.

Just before the opening bell, someone in the crowd shouted to Douglas to win it for his mother.

The 6-foot-4 Douglas, with J.D. McCauley, his trainer and uncle, along with manager John Johnson in his corner, came out inspired. He held his own in the early rounds, holding off the shorter Tyson's charge with his left jab.

AP

In this Feb. 11, 1990, file photo, heavyweight boxer James "Buster" Douglas waves his gloved hand to the cheering crowd as he makes his way to the dressing room following a 10th round knockout victory over Mike Tyson in a scheduled 12-round championship bout at the Tokyo Dome.

TINIAN

From Page 28

International School collide at the north court, while Mt. Carmel School faces Tinian at the other side at 12noon.

Teams can start their warm-up exercises at 10:30am, while the matches will continue until 3pm on Friday. On Saturday, games will start at 9am and end with the finals at 12noon.

MHS swept all of its 10 games in the elimination round and did not drop a set since opening the season with consecutive wins against GCA and Mt. Carmel.

GCA came in second with a 7-3, losing twice to MHS and its other setback against Mt. Carmel this season.

Saipan International School and MCS ended up with identical 5-5 slates to end up tied for third, but the former secured the No. 3 seeding in this weekend's final tournament based on the number of sets won.

SIS varsity won 73.7 percent of the sets they played or 14 out of 19, while MCS V came up with 63.2 percent or 12-of-19.

Kagman High School finished fifth at 2-8 with two of its wins against winless Saipan Southern High School.

VISAS

From Page 28

Europe and Africa.

During the meeting, Bob Guerrero was also appointed as the umpires committee chair, while Gary Cruz said that he is interested in volunteering to head medics and police.

Heads for the transportation and logistics committees are the only positions that need to be filled up.

CNMI District Administrator Mike Borja said they would write a letter to acting Fire chief Thomas Manglona to ask for medical assistance.

Another meeting is scheduled on Feb. 17 at 10am also at the Ada Gym.

The Philippines, Guam, the CNMI, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, India, and Vietnam are the teams that signified their intention to join the regional tournament. They are spread out in the Junior, Senior, and Big league divisions.

2

From Page 28

Carlon Cruzat, Enrico Del Rosario, Joel Fruit, Kennedy Izuka, Jehn Joyner, Won Jun Kim, Yoshi and Kenneth Mafnas, John Masga, Dakota Hall, Reniel and Ryan Relucio, Greg Sbalan, John Taisacan, Ryu Tanzawa, Glenn Vidal, and Jireh Yobech. Kiyoshi will call the shots for the Blue Ayuyus and will be assisted by Jershwin Angeles.

Some of the members of the youth team will return to the pitch on Feb. 17 to join the CNMI Men's National Team and square off against a selection from Sensyu University.

According to Sekiguchi, Sensyu University players' skill level is similar to that of Japan Soccer College. Sensyu University is also based in Tokyo and competed in three leagues last year. It posted a 14-5-3 win-draw-loss record in the JUFA Kanto League 1 and 1-0-1 mark in the Japan College Prime Minister's Cup and dropped its lone match in the Japan Inter College Tournament.

Sensyu University will play the CNMI Men's National Team at 5pm. The host squad is composed of Joe Miller, Daniel Agulto, Trey Dunn, Ethan Dickinson, Ruselle Zapanta, Arkie Reusora, Peter Loken, Fruit, Joyner, Perez, Belcher, Izuka, Taisacan, Masga, Galarion, Kim, and Del Rosario.

Majority of the members of the CNMI Men's National Team also played for a selection that battled and lost to Japan Soccer College last week, 1-0, and they are hoping to earn a win this time against Sensyu.

Raffle prizes

Meanwhile, NMIFA is inviting the public anew to come out and support the teams playing in the two exhibition games.

NMIFA added that on both days, raffle tickets will be given to spectators and they can win shirts and other merchandise from the two visiting teams. Raffle tickets will be available at the grandstand of the sports complex. Names of the lucky winners will be announced on *Saipan Tribune* and prizes can be claimed at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Blue Haus extends streak to four

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Blue Haus kept its perfect record following a 117-70 crushing of Saipan Warriors in the curtain raiser in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Blue Haus now has a 4-0 mark to remain at top of the team standings and ahead of Armatech (3-1), KB Market (2-1), Slashers (1-2), Bammy's Restaurant (1-2), Saipan Warriors (1-3), and Boomers (0-3).

The 47-point winning margin is the biggest so far for Blue Haus and in the league. In all its four victories, Blue Haus won by double digits, prevailing against Bammy's by 12, 82-70; 16 against Armatech, 88-72; and 20 over the Slashers, 81-61.

Blue Haus reached the century mark for the first time this season in their rout of Saipan Warriors after drawing double figures from four players. Ernie Moises led Blue Haus' demolition of the Saipan Warriors, as he sizzled for 30 points, while Edsel Mendoza chipped in 20 and Tony Diaz and Roger Valencia contributed 14. The three remaining Blue Haus scorers combined for 21 more points.

Moises drilled four of Blue Haus' first five field goals and he went on to finish the opening quarter with 14 points to give his team an early twin-digit advantage, 25-14.

Blue Haus' lead ballooned in the last three periods, as Moises' hot shooting rubbed off on his teammates.

Sam Fernandez, who did not start for Blue Haus, came to play in the second quarter where he logged all his 9 points. Mendoza added 6 more to end the half with 11 and lift Blue Haus to a commanding 54-47 advantage. Valencia also contributed 6 in the second frame, canning three of Blue Haus' last four field goals in that period.

In the third quarter, it was Diaz's turn to hit multiple baskets for Blue Haus. He recorded 12 points in the third, more than doubling his output (4) in the first half. Mendoza backed him up, chipping in 8, while four other Blue Haus players also made it to the board in the penultimate quarter.

Blue Haus exploded for 36 points in the third against the 21 of Saipan Warriors to take a comfortable 90-48 lead, entering the final canto.

Despite the big lead, Blue Haus didn't letup on offense and still outgunned the Saipan Warriors in the fourth frame, 27-22, to post the most lopsided win so far in the Masters league.

Blue Haus 117 – Moises 30, Mendoza 20, Diaz 18, Valencia 14, Fernandez 9, Factor 8, Buenabajo 4, Santos 3.

Saipan Warriors 70 – Geli 19, Del Rio 16, Surima 9, Mateo 6, Tiples 6, Santos 4, Alano 3, Miguel 2, Salazar 1.

Scoring by quarters: 25-14, 54-27, 90-48, 117-70.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Tony Diaz pulls up for a floater against Armatech's Raymund Tolentino during an earlier game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

PIC, PSS toy with foes in business caging

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club-Saipan and the Public School System toyed with their respective rivals in the continuation of Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015 Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC recorded another easy victory, a 103-48 decision over the hapless Saipan Ice & Water side, to grab the early lead in the 10-team field, while PSS debuted with a 74-46 thrashing of Saipan Stevedore.

PIC exploited all of its advantages—height, heft, and speed—to pull away early in the first quarter and just coasted to victory allowing coach Noel Verder to utilize his bench and experiment with his roster and giving his starters the needed rest.

Verder used 11 players on his 12-man roster.

But PIC, despite already enjoying an insurmountable lead, was still relentless with their defense—contesting every Saipan Ice ball possession to force a number of turnovers, which they turned into points.

PIC's 55-point humbling of Saipan Ice was its second blowout win after opening the league with a 122-52 mauling of Docomo Pacific last week.

Sam Rossow and Ham Hambros bulldozed their way inside the paint to finish with 17 and 16 points each, while former Shirley's Coffee Shop teammates Eric Dela Rosa and Sean Rabasto contributed 12 and 10 markers apiece.

Ray Babauta, Darwin Barbo, Bartley Demapan, Jack Quitugua, and James Abuy combined for 40 points also for PIC.

Treat Kaipat scored 14 to pace Saipan Ice's losing cause while Joel Hernandez and Patrick Rotap scattered 10 points each.

PSS 74, Saipan Stevedore 46

Earlier, Maverick Itibus made 10 points in the second quarter as PSS trounced Saipan Stevedore.

Itibus scored those points when PSS pulled away from a 14-14 standoff in the first quarter and built several double-digit leads that Saipan Stevedore failed to overhaul.

Itibus finished with 24 points to lead PSS' scoring, while Preston Basa chipped in 19 and Jacoby Winkfield added 13 more.

Ronald Coloma led Saipan Stevedore with 11 markers, while Nathan Kapileo and Mike Olaitiman contributed 10 each.

Action continues tonight at the Ada Gym with Fiesta Resort & Spa taking on Joeten Enterprises in the 6:30pm first game, while Docomo and IT&E collide in the 8pm match.

First Game

PSS 74 – Itibus 24, Basa 19, Winkfield 13, Cabrera 7, Diaz 6, Coldeen 3, Loste 2.

Stevedore 46 – Coloma 11, Kapileo 10, Olaitiman 10, Aldan 6, Acosta 3, Ben 2, Marcelo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-14, 36-20, 46-36, 74-46.

Second Game

PIC 103 – Rossow 17, Hambros 16, Dela Rosa 12, Rabasto 10, Babuta 9, Barbo 8, Demapan 8, Quitugua 8, Abuy 7, Aranda 4, Bartolo 4.

Saipan Ice 48 – Kaipat 14, Hernandez 10, Rotap 10, Santy 8, Cayading 4, Olopai 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-9, 50-23, 76-32, 103-48.

JON PREZ
Pacific Island Club Saipan's Jack Quitugua, left, gets past the defense of Saipan Ice & Water's Ben Olopai to score on a layup in their game on Tuesday night in the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMIVA looking for players, coaches for PNG Games

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is seeking interested beach volleyball players and coaches to join Team CNMI in the XV Pacific Games to be held from July 4 to 18 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

NMIVA will be sending one men's team, one women's team, and up to two coaches to the beach volleyball competition.

Players must be U.S. citizens, with a minimum of five years residency in the CNMI; coaches have no specific residency or citizenship requirement.

The deadline for players and coaches to indicate their interest in trying out for the CNMI beach volleyball team is Feb. 15, 2015.

Please send your expressions of interest to nmivolleyball@gmail.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

Annual Sports Banquet date moved

The 2015 Northern Marianas Sports Association-Tan Holdings annual Sports Banquet will be moved from Feb. 24 to Feb. 26 also at the Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan would like to apologize for the change since he won't be available on Feb. 24. The time remains at 6pm.

Tan, who's been hosting the banquet for 10 years now, said he wants to be very much part of the annual event.

NMSA is urging all member sports associations and federations to have their respective athletes of the months—January to December 2014—to be present as well as four of their representatives.

Individuals or businesses that continue to support NMSA through the years could also attend the event.

Each member federation should also inform NMSA president Michael White or secretary Rose Igitol of the names of two of their biggest sponsors so two slots could be reserved for them.

For more information, email White at mwhite@saipan.com or Igitol at rose.igitol@yahoo.com. ***(NMSA)***

Alex Rodriguez meets with Yankees, apologizes for actions
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Blue Haus extends streak to four
PAGE 27

2 Japanese teams vs NMI players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two more Japanese teams will challenge CNMI's players in exhibition matches this month at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

This Saturday, the CNMI Boys U18 National Team will host Aries FC. Game time is 4pm.

Aries FC, according to CNMI coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, is one of the more famous football clubs in Tokyo and was established in 1969. He played for the club for five straight seasons (1991-1996) and was also its head coach from 2000 to 2002.

Sekiguchi added the team that will see action on Saipan this Saturday are composed of players in the 30-and-over age group.

"It's a strong team. Some of them played in top college leagues in Japan," Sekiguchi said in an email sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

The visiting squad will face the CNMI U18 National Team that came from a 2-1 victory over Japan Soccer College early this month. The Blue Ayuyus are led by Sean Perez, who scored the pair of goals against Japan Soccer College. Completing the squad are Scott Kim, Joshua Galarion, Chris Aninzo, Evan Belcher, Saixian Bagsic,

See 2 on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Aries FC pose for an undated photo. The Tokyo-based team will face the CNMI Boys U18 National Team this Saturday at 4pm at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sensyu University players, seen here posing for a group photo, will challenge the CNMI Men's National Team on Feb. 17 at 5pm at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Organizers advise countries to secure visas

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the 2015 Little League Asia-Pacific and Middle East Tournament are advising competing countries that still need U.S. visas to start securing their travel documents so they won't encounter problems entering the CNMI.

This was the concern raised by committee member Walter Macaranas during the second organizational meeting last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

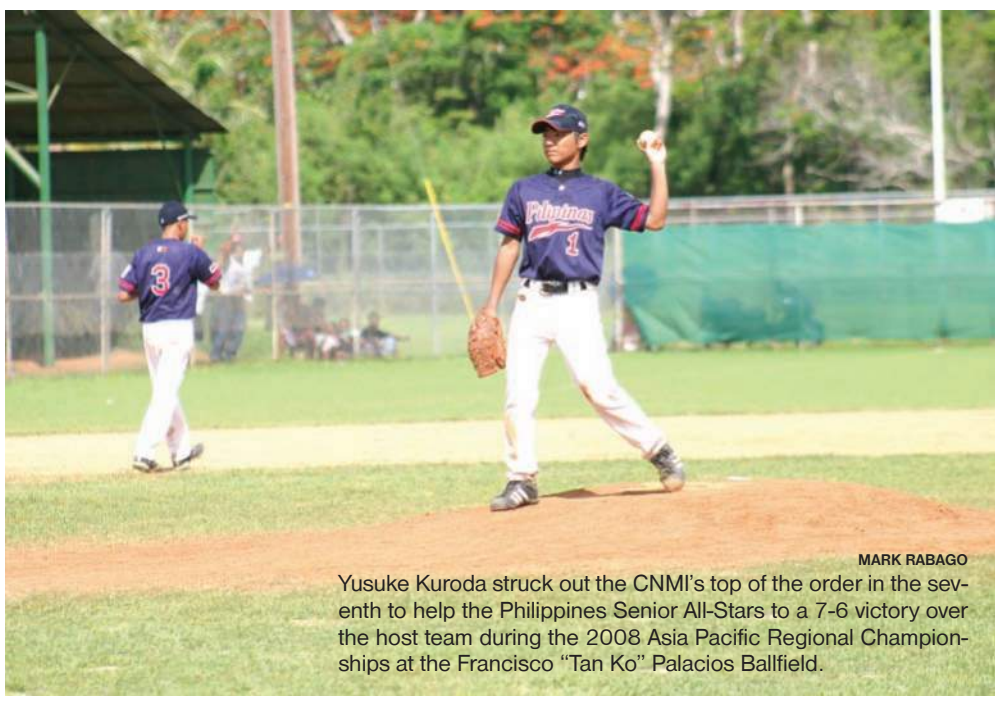
Tournament director and former CNMI district administrator James A. Ada said he would immediately e-mail all competing countries of this information.

Saipan will host the regionals tentatively set on June 26-July 5 and since the CNMI is now under U.S. federal law its immigration status require some countries to have U.S. visas upon entering the Commonwealth.

Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam need U.S. visas to enter the United States or any of its territories.

Saipan last hosted the regional tournament in 2008 when it was still only countries in Asia and the Pacific competing and the Middle East was grouped with

See VISAS on Page 26



MARK RABAGO
Yusuke Kuroda struck out the CNMI's top of the order in the seventh to help the Philippines Senior All-Stars to a 7-6 victory over the host team during the 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Championships at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Tinian, Agape join MISO volleyball finale

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian High School and Agape Christian School will be joining the weekend finale of the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League to complete the list of eight teams that will contend for the title.

Tinian, despite failing to compete in the regular season, is automatically seeded fourth, while ACS only plays in the tournament.

Rota High School was supposed to join the tournament, but failed to secure the needed funds for their trip.

ACS will have a tall order against them when they take on the undefeated and defending champion Marianas High School tomorrow, Friday, at 11am at the MHS Gymnasium's north court

Grace Christian Academy, the 2013 titlist, battles winless Saipan Southern High School at the same time at the south side.

Kagman High School and Saipan

See TINIAN on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Grace Christian Academy aims to regain the title it last won in 2013 when it faces Saipan Southern High School in the first game of the finale of the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League on Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.